

ICFT: An Assault On Human Life

(Acts 17:22-31)

Introduction.

A) After watching network television news, cable news, news website, or news blogs, the keen observer much walk away with the idea that life matters very little to some.

- 1) The gang banger who randomly kills someone as an initiation.
- 2) The parent who abandons their child, unconcerned about their well being.
- 3) The dictator who commits mass genocide to eliminate his enemy.
- 4) The radical extremist who beheads others as a statement means of intimidation.
- 5) The list could go on.

B) Why the theatre shootings? Why the school shootings? Why is there a seeming increase in murders?

- 1) We have moved from a primarily agricultural based society to an urban society.
- 2) We have minimized life and death in our entertainment.
- 3) We have moved away from the understanding that man was created in the image of God and valuable to Him.

C) Contextualize this sermon in the series Issues Christians Face Today.

D) Contextualize this section of Scripture. While on one of his church planting/strengthening tours, Paul slipped quietly into the thriving, noisy metropolis of Athens. The scene he faced was completely unlike anything he had ever experienced. An oppressive atmosphere enveloped him. Being alone, the apostle strolled through the city. Amazing sights surely caught his eye: the music hall, Odeion of Pericles; the 60,000-seat stadium; the impressive structures like the Temple of Zeus, the splendid Parthenon, Erecthleum, and the Winless Victory temple; and of course the 512-foot-high hill called Areopagus. Among the endless statues dedicated to their innumerable gods was another special alter marked TO AN

UNKNOWN GOD, to which Paul referred in his talk on Mars Hill. He was moved deeply in his spirit as he felt the spiritual darkness and saw the results of human depravity.

I. Life Is A Gift From God, Therefore Prize It!

A) The Source of Life (Acts 17:25)

B) The Value of Life

- 1) God valued human life above all other at creation (Genesis 1:27)
- 2) God attends to the details of every person's creation (Psalm 139:14-16).
- 3) God values human life so much that he attends to every detail of every human life (Matthew xx:xxxx)
- 4) God values human life so much that he provides for all mankind's existence (Acts 17:24-25)

II. Life is a Gift, Therefore Protect It

A) Abortion

(The issue hinges on when life begins – 1) birth, 2) implantation, 3) viability, or 4) conception.

Notes:

- 1) The name Jane Roe (alias for Norma McCorvy) was made up over pizza and beer.
- 2) Roe didn't know the meaning of abortion
- 3) Rose never appeared in court
- 4) Roe never had an abortion
- 5) Roe converted to Christianity and became a pro-life advocate

B) Euthanasia

(Euthanasia is the intentional killing by act or omission of a person who's life is considered not to be worth living.)

- 1) mercy killing
- 2) assisted suicide

3) involuntary euthanasia

C) Biomedical dilemma

(Biomedical technology used for creation and manipulation of human life.)

1) in vitro fertilization

2) savior siblings

Principle: Is the process restorative or manipulative?

D) End of Life Decisions

(End of Life Decisions involve the using of treatments to delay death/extend life in spite of inevitable death.)

Principle: Does the process introduce the element of death or has that element being allowed to run its course?

III. Life is Valuable, Therefore Use It

A) God Created You For His Pleasure (Acts 17:24-25)

“**24**) The God who made the world and everything in it—He is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in shrines made by hands. **25** Neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives everyone life and breath and all things.” (Acts 17:24-25)

B) God Saved You To Live On His Mission (Matt. 28:19-20)

“**19**) Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

C) Life is Short, Make The Most of It For Him (Eph. 5:15-16)

“**15**) Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk—not as unwise people but as wise— **16**) making the most of the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Conclusion

Human Life is valuable. Until we as a society return to that fundamental understanding and practice, we will continue to see a barbaric acts of violence and death.

God valued human life so much that he chose to send His only son to die on a cross, that anyone who chooses to accept Christ, will be saved.