

Theme: Life is Sacred

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27

God created male and female in His own image. God's image is seen in life, which is why life is sacred. Because every life comes from God, it belongs to God. Whether we live or die, it is outside of our control and is fully in God's hands. Therefore, we must respect the creator of life and cherish all living things. One of the Ten Commandments says, "Do not kill" (Exodus 20:13; Deut. 5:17). This "killing" is not merely the actual murdering of another as referred to in the Old Testament laws. According to the teachings of the New Testament, whoever hates his brother is a murderer (1 John 3:15; Matt. 5:22). Negative emotions such as jealousy, fear, anger, resentment, etc., in our hearts can be easily exploited by the devil to hurt others or ourselves, both inside of our hearts and in action. This causes us to forget how precious and generous is the sacred life that God created. Whether you are looking at yourself in the mirror or looking at others around you, let us remind ourselves that everyone is created by God and is in God's image. We must learn to treat others unconditionally, cherish every life, and see things as He sees.

REFLECTION

- Have we ever despised the lives of another, especially those of the homeless, addicts, and convicted criminals? Have we ever felt that their lives have no value?
- Do we often let anger, resentment, and jealousy drive us to condemn others in our hearts, and forget that every life is in the hands of God?

RENEW

- Pray that the Lord will continue to renew our lives, keep our hearts meek and humble so that we cease to define life by external and human standards. Instead, pray that we will look at life through the eyes of God.
- While weak and sinful, pray that the Lord will help us not sin and not to let the sun go down while we are still angry. I hope that we are watchful and often practice forgiving each other with love and communicating with each other in peace.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our relationships with others in church, that we learn to love and tolerate each other even when they have different opinions and positions. Let us not sin in anger and be united in wisdom and love.
- Pray for those who do not yet know God and belittle others, that the Lord will be merciful so that they would have a chance to know God and have a new understanding of the meaning of life. Many are suffering and are suicidal due to mental, emotional, and physical difficulties. Ask the Lord to help them. We may not have the wisdom and ability to help, but ask the Lord to comfort, care, and be with them.