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# Witnessing Life

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## Witnessing To The Culture

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***Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: Witnessing Life***

Matthew 28:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Previous Messages:

- **Overcoming the Sin of Silence** (Shame/Transform, Ignorance/Word, Fear/Anointing)
- **Going beyond the Zone** (“GO” Comfort/Home; Familiarity/Kin; Safety/Country)
- **The Impartation of God** (“TEACH” Will of God, Word of God, Spirit of God)
- **The Process of Baptism** (“BAPTIZE” Remission, Transformation, Regeneration)

***Lesson Text***

Psalms 139:13–16 (AV)<sup>13</sup> For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. (NLT<sup>13</sup> **You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.**) <sup>14</sup>I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. <sup>15</sup>My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. (NLT<sup>15</sup> **You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.**) <sup>16</sup>Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.

Jeremiah 1:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

***Introduction***

For the last three sermons we’ve looked at witnessing based on Matthew 28, where Jesus gives us the Great Commission (that is charge, command, or directive):

1. **“To Go”**; getting out of our comfort zone.
2. **“To Teach”**; impartation of the blessings of God
3. **“To Baptize”** continually persuade, influence, encourage, and change.

Last week we looked at “TO BAPTIZE”: **The Process of Baptism:**

- Baptizing the Body Through Remission (Sin and Behavior)
- Baptizing the Soul through Transformation (Mind and Renewal)
- Baptizing of the Spirit through Regeneration (Holy Ghost and Power)

Let’s now look at this commission or charge as it relates to Life.

How many of you have ever witness Life? Was there for the ultrasound of your child? Felt him or her kick in the mother’s womb? Was there at the birth? Cut the Chord?

How many of you have witness the birth of Spiritual Life? Helped to witness to them? Saw them being touched and moved by the Holy Spirit? Was there when they accepted Christ?

John 14:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

Jesus himself not only speaks to sanctity of life, but he himself epitomizes and is the walking embodiment of life.

And that in order to obtain true life, we must go through life.

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

And one of the ways the enemy keeps us from experiencing Abundant life, is getting us to abort life (naturally and spiritually), before we even have a choice to choose life.

#### The Abortion of Natural Life

- **Chart of African American Deaths:** Aids (245K), Crime (354K), Accidents (447K), Cancer (2.5M), Heart Disease (2.7M), Abortions (15.5M).
- Minority women constitute only about 13% of the female population (age 15-44) in the United States, but they underwent approximately 36% of the abortions.
- According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, black women are more than 5 times as likely as white women to have an abortion
- On average, 1,876 black babies are aborted every day in the United States.
- Since the 1973 Row v. Wade decision, that accounts for more than 680K babies a year, or 30,818,300.
- Biblically we've seen this attempt to destroy a people or it's leaders by destroying the bible in Egypt before Moses, plot to destroy the Jews during Queen Esther, and king Herod ordering all the infants to be killed to stop the birth of Jesus.

#### The Abortion of Spiritual Life:

- According to statistics from Barna Research, Focus on the Family, and Fuller Seminary, almost 1500 pastors leave their ministry positions each month; that 18,000 per year
- Less than 20% of people go to church regularly, a study decline over the past 30 years; 52 million, down from 132 million, out of a possible 327 million.
- For a myriad of reasons, we personally see and hear about the decline of church attendance

Both naturally and spiritually, we are called to be a witness of life, a witness for life, and a witness to life.

#### ***Series and Subject: Witnessing To The Culture: Witnessing Life***

Witnessing the Formation of Life, the Sanctification of Life, and the Ordination of Life

## ***I. A Witness of Life (Formation of Life)***

Jeremiah 1:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee;** and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Some people give up on life because their either don't think that there is a life, or that the life they have isn't worth living.

There really is no baby in the womb, it's just a blob. There's no life, no heartbeat, no brain.

You really didn't have a spiritual experience or divine calling, you just got a little emotional.

Well if there is a life, then it's not worth bringing it this world. Life is too tough as it is.

Your life doesn't matter; you're not important or significant to the world or the things of God.

### **But there was a Witness to the Formation of Your Life**

Jeremiah 1:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee;**

Psalms 139:13 (NLT)<sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb...<sup>15</sup> You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

But God wasn't just there during the formation of our Human Man, he was also there during the formation of our Spirit Man!

Romans 8:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

James 1:2-3 (AV)<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; <sup>3</sup> Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

## ***II. A Witness for Life (Sanctification of Life)***

Jeremiah 1:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; **and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee,** *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Sanctification means to set apart for a sacred purpose, to consecrate, to purify, to declare holy.

There's a difference between sanctified and common! (Sanctified Money vs. Common Money)

When something is not sanctified, it becomes common, ordinary, irreverent, of no value, no importance, and of no value.

When life has no value, people would soon kill you as look at you; you mean nothing. And when the baby means nothing, when the children mean nothing, when life mean nothing...

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...**

### **But there was a Witness to the Sanctification of Your Life**

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

Romans 8:28-29 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Your life had purpose, your life was predestined, your life was set aside to conform to Christ.

Leviticus 20:7 (AV)<sup>7</sup> Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I *am* the LORD your God.

Jeremiah 29:11 (AV)<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

1 Peter 2:9 (AV)<sup>9</sup> But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

### **III. A Witness to Life (Ordination of Life)**

Jeremiah 1:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, **and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.**

To ordain means to confer holy orders, to decree officially, to make a priest or minister.

To Witness Life

- We are called to Witness the Formation of Life (God formed us when we were hidden)
- We are called to Witness the Sanctification of Life (God set us apart for purpose)
- We are called to Witness the Ordination of Life (God decreed and declared us)

Our life didn't just happen, God decreed and declared it; he spoke it into existence.

We are not just randomly here, we are not someone's accident, we were called and ordained.

### **And there was a Witness to the Ordination of Your Life**

God ordained us when He Formed us through trials, tribulations, and through suffering; "and I reckon that the suffering of this present time is not worthy to be compared to the Glory.."

God ordained us when He Sanctified us by setting us apart with a calling, with purpose, and with destiny; "for I know the thoughts I think towards you, thoughts to bring you to an expected end"

And finally, God ordained us by conferring holy orders, official power, and a priestly anointing.

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Luke 10:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

God ordained us to Live, gave us power to Live, anointed us to Live, blessed us to Live!