

WHY DO ALL LIVES MATTER?

Introduction:

I. Why is this Question Being Asked?

- Because of the Black Lives Matter movement that began in 2013. George Zimmerman was acquitted of murdering Trayvon Martin.
- It gained traction in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. Most recently it became prominent in national headlines with the death of George Floyd in May of 2020.¹
- As a Christian, there are many things we do not agree with concerning this organization. And as Christians we should not partner with them, however, the statement in itself is a true statement.
- Black lives do matter, but if we are going to tackle this subject from a Christian worldview, we need to go to Scripture to help us understand that in God's eyes, all lives matter.
- Saying, "All Lives Matter" will get you in trouble with those who are part of the Black Lives Matter movement.
- They claim that saying, "All Lives Matter" is tantamount to saying Black Lives do not matter. This kind of thinking brings about division not unity.
- Of course, the lives of blacks matter, but so do all other lives. The hypocrisy of the worldview behind the Black Lives Matter movement is staggering.
- In an effort to sound noble and gracious the Black Lives Matter organization fights against racism (as we should), but they actively oppose other organizations or individuals who advocate for the lives of others.
- When your organization is based on Naturalism and holds a highly secular worldview rooted in the beliefs of evolution, your desire for equality and fair treatment is going to be extremely subjective. Let's look at some examples:



¹ Todd Dykstra, *Black Lives Matter Evaluation Message*, pg. 1.

II. Lives that do not Matter to the Secular World.

1. Babies in the Womb (*abortion*)

- 22 percent of all pregnancies in the United States (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion. 62 million abortions have taken place since the 1973 Roe V. Wade case.²
- 61 percent of these take place before the baby is 9 weeks old while another 28 percent take place between 9 and 12 weeks.
- Ever since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, the American legal system has said that women have a constitutional right to obtain an abortion up until the point that the fetus is “viable” (can live on his or her own outside of the mother’s womb).
- The newborn is immediately granted full legal rights as a human being; yet only a few hours earlier that same child is not even considered a person. So, that life does not matter.³ To embrace abortion is to deny the fact that God considers the unborn as persons.⁴

Psalm 51:5

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Psalm 139:13-16

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;* ¹⁶Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

- The Black Lives Matter organization is quoted as saying:
“We deserve and thus we demand reproductive justice that gives us autonomy over our bodies and our identities while ensuring that our children and families are supported, safe, and able to thrive.”
- Unborn babies are unquestionably living human beings. They are valuable creations of God, made in his image. Abortion is the unjustified ending of a baby’s life. Therefore, abortion constitutes the sin of murder.
- To participate in or give any kind of approval of abortion is to participate in Satan’s murderous strategy:

² John MacArthur, *Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong*. (Eugene OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2009)

³ Ibid.

⁴ Eric Davis, <https://thecripplegate.com/a-biblical-analysis-of-the-black-lives-matter-organization/>

John 8:44

You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- Another population that is thought of as disposable in the eyes of the secular worldview is that of the terminally ill or incapacitated elderly.

2. Elderly and Terminally Ill (*Euthanasia*)

- Euthanasia involves the deliberate medical act or omission taken by oneself, one's doctor, or a third party for the intent purpose of causing one's death.
- Advocates believe that the death being caused is for the good of the person being put to death. This is why it is sometimes called, Mercy Killing. There are two types of Euthanasia, Active and Passive, as well as a third category we need to understand which is letting die.
 - ***Active Euthanasia***
Occurs when a person takes proactive steps to cause their own death or the death of another. With active Euthanasia death does not occur because of sickness or injury, but because of the specific action taken to terminate life.
 - ***Passive Euthanasia***
Takes place when available medical treatment that could clearly enable an individual to live significantly longer is deliberately withheld or withdrawn.⁵ The intent of passive euthanasia is to cause a person's death at a time when natural death is not imminent.
 - ***Letting Die***
This involves withholding or withdrawing of life prolonging and life sustaining medications and technologies from an irreversibly ill patient with whom death is imminent even with treatment. The intent is not to bring about death but to enhance the wellbeing of the patient by avoiding useless prolonging of the dying process.⁶
 - The big difference between letting die and passive euthanasia is that in passive euthanasia the treatment that is withheld has the potential to significantly prolong the individual's life. In a letting die scenario, the individual's death is imminent either way.
- You can see how subjective this view is when it comes to the value of life. As we go to Scripture we see that the fact of the matter is that all lives matter.

⁵ John MacArthur, *Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong*. (Eugene OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2009)

⁶ Ibid.

III. A Biblical Explanation of Why All Lives Matter.

1. Because God is Impartial.

- In the Bible, we see that God is not a God of partiality, He values all human life equally. He does not favor certain groups, classes, or ethnicities of people over others.

Acts 10:34

Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality.

Romans 2:9-11

There will be tribulation and distress ⁹for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹For there is no partiality with God.

Ephesians 6:9

And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- It is impossible for God to be anything but impartial because he is inherently just.⁷

2. Because man is made in the Image of God.

- Very early on in the Bible we see that all humans are made in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 5:1

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ²He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created. ³When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of *a son* in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.

Genesis 9:6

“Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

- From these passages we see that all people, regardless of sex, skin color, nationality, age, physical health or mental capacity, all people are made in the image of God.⁸

⁷ Todd Dykstra, *Black Lives Matter Evaluation Message*, pg.2.

⁸ Dr. Vlach, Theology Class Notes, *The Master’s Seminary*, Sun Valley California, 2016.

- Understanding what it means to be created in the image of God, gives you a greater understanding of how to approach issues such as human dignity and value, personal and social ethics, relations between the sexes and racial issues.

(a) **How is Man the Image of God?**

- This is multifaceted, it includes several different aspects. Some would say that to image God is to reflect His righteous character. In other words, to be created in God's image is to mirror His holiness (Calvin Institutes, I, XV, 4).⁹
- I believe that is part of it, but that there are other aspects, I would say the image of God is also exhibited in us:

Ontologically (being) = Man is a living, personal, self-conscious, active being with personality. He is a complex unity of soul and body.

Volitionally = Man has a will and the ability to select between various choices. This separates man from animals.

Emotionally = Humans experience a wide range of emotions and feelings; they are emotionally complex.

Functionally = Man has what he needs (including biologically male and female) to fill, rule, and subdue the earth on God's behalf for God's glory.

Relationally = Man is equipped to participate in relationships with God and with other people. This reflects the Trinity as well.¹

- These characteristics are unique to humans (*male and female*). No animal shares this greatness. Because of this, humans have a special place of dignity and responsibility not shared with the animal kingdom.¹⁰

⁹ Dr. James Mook, TH 605 *Theology I Class Notes* (Sun Valley CA: The Masters Seminary, 2014).

¹⁰ Ibid.

(b) **Questions and Implications of this.**

i. **Does this apply to all people?**

- Yes, it does. No one can escape the fact that they are made in God's Image. Try as they may, unbelievers cannot escape from the fact that they were made in God's image. Thus, there is a real sense in which all people know God.

Romans 1:21

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

ii. **What about Capital punishment?**

- Scripture clearly states that capital punishment is the appropriate punishment for murder because of this truth.

Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

Romans 13:4

⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

iii. **Was this affected by the fall?**

- Even after the fall all people still possess the image and likeness of God. This is affirmed in **Genesis 5:1-3** for both male and female and for the offspring of Adam.

Genesis 5:1-3

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.

iv. **How then should we respond?**

- Because we are made in his image, we should pattern our lives after Jesus. Jesus was the complete revelation of the image of God. He is the perfect example of a human.

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Colossians 1:15-16

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

- With all of that being said, we can see that to kill, curse, or harm any human being, is an attack upon God, **Gen. 9:6, James 3:9.**

This means that murder, including abortion, and euthanasia, as well as racism of any kind are all attacks on God.

- Unfortunately, these are the areas in which the worldview of naturalism says lives do not matter. They may not say it in words, but they do in their affirmations and actions.

Conclusion:

As Christians, who hold to a Biblical worldview, we understand that all lives matter. We affirm the fact that racism is wrong and sinful. However, we also affirm the fact that abortion and euthanasia and any other activity or ideology that harms degrade, abuses, belittles or shows partiality over one group or individual to another, is unbiblical and must be rejected.

The true gospel of Jesus Christ holds to the belief that All Lives Matter thus we must preach the gospel to all and treat all with love and dignity following in the footsteps of Christ.