

SRM14013 1/19/2014  
Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

“Meet the Author of Life”  
Psalm 139:13-18

As I come to the pulpit this morning, some of you are hurting, and that particularly grieves me because I feel partly responsible for your pain.

Some of you are hurting because you have seen that it is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, and it is painful for you because you have been hurt by abortion. I know that some of you feel guilt for having had or encouraged an abortion.

In January of 1973, 4 months before I graduated from seminary, and 9 months before I began to preach full-time, the US Supreme Court made its famous Roe vs. Wade decision regarding abortion, so for 40 years I have been faced with how to speak to my congregations about it.

At first, it was simple: show that the Bible sees it as wrong. In the 80s there was a lot of activism, in which Christians risked arrest and jail. But as the years passed, I became aware that there was a need to speak of God's forgiveness and mercy for the adult victims as well, and the temptation was present to simply be silent about it.

But as God's prophets, we are called to faithfully and lovingly proclaim “the whole counsel of God”. In the end, that means, “tell the whole story”, not the bad news without the good, nor the good news without the bad. That’s what I want to do today.

I believe the Lord would have me lead you to think about a few verses in Psalm 139:13-18. They made me think of Sally Klein O’Connor’s song, “Come Meet the Author of Life”, for in these verses David introduces the LORD as our Wondrous Creator, Sovereign Sustainer, and Precious Power.

The New Testament tells us that Jesus is the Lord. He and the heavenly Father are One.

I. Jesus Christ is the Wondrous Creator.

Christ demonstrated his Creative power in making you and your world: Psa 139:13-14 (ESV) “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.”

A. Christ is not only Savior, but also the Creator:  
John 1:1-3 (ESV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

The phrase "your works are wonderful" in v. 14 is sung in Rev. 15:2-3 to Christ:

"And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. 3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!"

B. He has the power of a Creator.

Man's power is increasing day by day, but the power that created and sustains man is the power of Christ.

God has graphically illustrated Christ's power in creation.

ILL: It doesn't take long after you see a cabinet shop to figure out there is a cabinet maker somewhere nearby. Only a fool would surmise that the wood just fell together that way.

C. It is a power that produces creativity in you & me. Psa 139:13 "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb."

You are made in His image, with skills to be creative forming plans for what we will do in life.

They become reflections of His plans for us: Jer. 29:11 (ESV) "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Ill.--Max Lucado tells in his book, *The Applause of Heaven*, about a sweater that hangs in his closet. He says he seldom wears it -- it's too small, the sleeves are too short, the shoulders too tight, some of the buttons are missing, the thread is frazzled. Logically, he says, he should throw out that sweater since he has no use for it and will never wear it again. It simply takes up space in his closet.

That's what logic says. But love, he reports, won't let him.

Why not? What's unusual about that sweater? To start with, it has no label, no tag telling you "Wash in cold water." That's because it wasn't made in a factory, produced on an assembly line as the product of a nameless employee earning a living. Rather, it was the creation of a devoted mother expressing her love -- his mother. That sweater is unique, one of a kind, irreplaceable. Each strand was chosen with care, each thread selected with affection.

And so, even though that sweater has lost all of its use, it has lost none of its value. It is valuable not because of its function, but because of its MAKER. So is each life.

trans: But Jesus Christ isn't just Wondrous Creator.

## 2. The Lord Jesus is our Sovereign Sustainer: (v.15-16)

A. He sustains you from the time you were in the womb. He not only built the building, he designed it.

Psa 139:15 "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth."

The body is an amazing machine. In 24 hours the average adult accomplishes much:

Your heart beats 103,689 times  
 Your blood travels 168,000,000 miles  
 You breathe 23,040 times  
 You inhale 438 cubic feet of air  
 You eat 3 1/2 pounds of food  
 You drink 2.9 quarts of liquid  
 You lose 7/8 pound of waste  
 You speak 4,800 words  
 You move 750 muscles  
 Your nails grow .000046 inch  
 You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells

It's no wonder you feel tired!

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It is wonderful because God designed it.

B. God's sovereign power guides your history.

v. 16 "Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them."

We pull the plow, but God holds the reins, sometimes tightly, sometimes loosely.

C. In creating us, He gave us the power to be creative, and also to guide our plans.

It pleases Him for us to creatively form a plan of what He wants us to do, and then He gives us the power to carry it out to completion.

trans: Jesus Christ is the Wondrous Creator of every person, the Sovereign Sustainer of all, & finally ...

## 3. Jesus is your Precious Power to make you a new creation: (v. 17-18)

Christ can make you the happy, content and fulfilled person you want to be.

A. Christ has the wisdom to do this.

Man has been inventing ways to get happiness for centuries, without success.

But Christ knows all things: Psa 139:17-18a  
 "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!"

How vast is the sum of them! 18 If I would count them, they are more than the sand."

There is no problem too complex for Christ.

B. What is more, Christ has power to re-create you.

v. 18b "When I awake, I am still with you" may refer to waking from the sleep of death.

It is by God's power that we have physical, earthly life, and also Spiritual, eternal life.

- Can you doubt that the Christ who formed a physical body from dust, can also make a righteous man out of the vilest sinner?

C. Such salvation is possible only through the infinite power of Christ.

Matthew 19:23-26 (ESV) And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Christ said he came to call not the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

This means if you don't think you don't need anyone else to be saved, you are lost, but if you don't think you are even worth saving, Christ is calling you to receive his gift of re-creation.

D. It is a power that gives the redeemed soul the power to create a plan, carry it out and see it to completion.

"When I awake, I am still with you": He will always be there for you.

Conc: Do you really know this Author of Life? Have you wondered about the value of your own life?

Have you been so in despair that you have considered taking your own life?

Have you tried to find happiness and failed?

Would you like to make a difference in your world, but can't seem to get started, or to finish what you start?

Then give up and give Christ his due.

Give him a clear shot by holding back nothing.

Jesus Christ is the Wondrous Creator, the Sovereign Sustainer, and the Precious Power of all life.

If you ask Him, the power that created the world will re-create you, & do a miracle in your life!

In an article by Marie Bowen, she also reminds us “The church has a responsibility to care for a woman and her child in unplanned pregnancy.

“When a woman finds herself pregnant at a time that seems inconvenient to her, the messages she hears are amplified by her own feelings. She may be married or unmarried but lack support from the father of the child to carry the pregnancy to term. If she is young, her parents, friends, teachers, and counselors may urge her to choose abortion. She may feel inadequate to support or parent her child, have no idea where to turn for help or how to make a plan for adoption, or not have the financial resources for proper medical attention, let alone a means of providing for a child. She may hear abortion is her “right” and is “safe, quick, and easy,” and she will be “rid of this problem” and be able to “go on with her life.”

In such times, the church needs to “provide wisdom in decision-making, and express God’s care for widows and orphans. There needs to be “visible caring and compassionate ministry to encourage her or give her confidence that the church will provide emotional and material support for her and her child.

Pastor Jerry Shirley reminds us that “We must not overlook those who have challenges in this life. Jesus showed special concern for the lame, the blind,

the woman with the issue of blood, the lepers. In our day we mustn’t forget them.”

Action: What can you and I do in response to this message? John Piper:

1. Pray that God will deliver us all from the cheapening of human life. And pray that you will know how to help others.
2. Volunteer at a crisis pregnancy ministry and get into the lives of those in need.
3. Consider adoption.
4. Speak out in conversations about what really matters – and do it with patience and compassion and conviction and knowledge.
5. Read. Few things make us passionate and intelligent like passionate and intelligent books and articles. *WORLD* magazine. [Worldmag.com](http://Worldmag.com).
6. And finally, don't just read about forgiveness: receive it now. None of us in this room has done all we should regarding this great sin in our land and our world. We all stand in need of forgiveness. So remember the word of the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15 "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."