

RESPECT FOR LIFE

Proper Regard For, Attentive to That Which Is Alive

Human life is given great value in the Bible

Persons are created in the image of God. Gen 1:26, 2:7

Human life is viewed as a sacred trust.

To have respect for life is to respect God, and to respect God is to respect life.

Taking human life is viewed as a serious crime.

Murder: the unlawful killing of a human being by another

Deliberately taking the life of a human being usurps the God's authority.

The prohibition against murder is a hedge to protect human dignity.

In Gen.9:6, a murderer should be prepared to forfeit his own life.

In the beginning

Slaying of Abel condemned. Cain punished severely. Gen.4:8

Murder in Noah's day was a capital offense. Gen.9:6

Respect for life in the Old Testament

Prohibition against murder in the Ten Commandments. Exo.20:13; Deu.5:17

Careful attention given to determine whether a killing is murder. Num.35:16-31

Respect for life in New Testament

Murder condemned. Rom.1:28-29

Murder begins when one loses respect for the life of another. Mat.5:21-22

Murder begins in the heart. Mat.15:19

Murder is hate activated. 1Jo.3:15

Violators are to be punished.

To lightly treat life-takers shows disrespect for life.

Threats to respect for life today

Theory of evolution undermines the value of life.

Atheism destroys the reason to respect life.

Humanism allows for "survival of the fittest."

Results of such threats

Value of human life minimized.

Selective taking of life of the unborn, infirm, elderly.

Protecting the lives of murderers under the guise of "respect for life."