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### **Lutherans for Life of Wisconsin Essay Contest**

The sanctity of life is under attack across the world today. The systematic purging of religion and particularly Christianity from aspects of public life has formed new generations to whom human life, including one's own life, is nothing but a biological reaction generated by an animalistic desire to reproduce. Therefore the slaughter of a child while he or she is still in the mother's womb is no more inherently evil than the removal of a tumor or a parasite. However, the Word of God makes it plainly evident that human life is sacred in all stages and forms. The inconvenience or difficulty another life produces in our own does not give us the right to take away the breath of life God has chosen to breathe into that child.

In order to analyze what God's Word says about sanctity of life issues and how His Word should affect the way we live our lives in the modern world, we must first understand why God's Word is the ultimate authority on all issues modern or timeless. In regards to this, the words of Peter in John 6:68 ring as true today, two millennia after the death of Christ, as they did when he spoke them to our Savior's face: "Lord to whom shall we go, you alone hold the words of eternal life". However, despite Peter's clear proclamation that Christ alone holds all truth, some Christians still look to worldly sources for how they should live in the modern world. They question if God truly meant the things that he said through the writers of the Bible, and they question if those God-breathed words really could still apply in modern times and to modern issues. But Christ himself stated "the Scripture cannot be broken" in John 10:35 and he states

that he has not come “to abolish the Law and the Prophets” but instead he came to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17). This means that Christ believed the God-breathed words of the Old Testament-- - written long before the time in which Christ was in the flesh--- to still be true in his time and world. His time was not only different from ours, but it was also very different from the times of Moses and the prophets. Hebrews 13:8 says “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever” and that means that Christ would hold the same opinions on the Word of God today as He did when He was first on this earth. Not only that but John 1:14 says that Christ is the embodiment of the Word of God, in flesh, dwelling among us, so therefore the Word of God never changes either.

So with the understanding that God’s Word is the ultimate authority on life and its sanctity, we can now properly look at what God says about the practice of abortion through his word. There are no Bible verses expressly forbidding abortion as a practice, even though it was in its early days even in the time of Christ . However there are numerous verses pertaining to the sanctity of life in God’s creation and as God’s created. God spoke to and through the prophet Jeremiah saying “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” God may have spoken specifically to Jeremiah in those words but they apply to all of us. We may not all be prophets or pastors but we have all been set apart as members of God’s anointed and before any of us were born God knew us better than we know ourselves now, and he also knew how we each individually will fit into and fulfill a purpose in God’s perfect plan. Therefore it is understandable why the Lord, who created a special place in his creation and in his plan for each and every person, is saddened by the idea and practice of killing His children before they are born simply for the sake of convenience.

Psalm 139 says that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” and that God saw our unformed bodies and knew his plan for our lives. The Lord has ordained and caused the formation of every human life, and we as a part of God’s creation are not permitted to act as though we are God and decide which of his created beings are allowed to live and to fulfill their part in his plan.