
Psalm 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to thy steadfast love; according to thy abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight, so that thou art justified in thy sentence and blameless in thy judgment.

Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Fill me with joy and gladness; let the bones which thou hast broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners will return to thee.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance.

¹⁵ O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

¹⁶ For thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased.

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. (RSV)

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The Sanctity of Life

January 23, 2022

Mankind, created in the image of God

*Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us **make mankind in our image, in our likeness**, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

*²⁷ So **God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them**; male and female he created them.*

*Genesis 5:3 This is the written account of Adam’s family line. When God **created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God**. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “**Mankind**” when they were created. ³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.*

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

When does human life begin?

Psalm 139:13 For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knowest me right well;

Psalm 139:15 ...my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139:17 How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. When I awake, I am still with thee. (RSV)

Psalm 58:1 Do you rulers indeed speak justly? Do you judge people with equity?

Psalm 58:2 No, in your heart you devise injustice, and your hands mete out violence on the earth.

Psalm 58:3 Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.

Man, made in the image of God, but corrupted

Psalm 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. ⁶ Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Jeremiah, Job, the lifeblood

Jeremiah 1:4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Job 15:14 "What are mortals, that they could be pure, or those born of woman, that they could be righteous?"

Genesis 9:5 And I will require a penalty for your lifeblood; I will require it from any animal and from any human; if someone murders a fellow human, I will require that person's life.

*Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the **blood that makes atonement for one's life**. ¹² Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may any foreigner residing among you eat blood."*

The personal side: forgiven, cleansed, renewed

Jeremiah 33:8 I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me. ⁹ And this city shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth who shall hear of all the good that I do for them; they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the prosperity I provide for it. (RSV)