



The Value of Life

May 20, 2018

Psalm 68:1-6

1 May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him.

2 May you blow them away like smoke— as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God.

3 But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.

5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.

6 God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.

God is a Father - Who Loves Vulnerable Children

1. God is "A father to the fatherless" (v. 5)

- Arises as Defender (v. 1-3)
- Shows up in Our Story: Israel was an "orphan" & "widow" (v. 7)
- We're called to image this God: provision/protection; compassion/care

2. Parents are powerful

- The power of a father figure (This is Us)
- If you've had a bad father (God's a redemptive one)
- If you've had a good father (window into the heart of God)

3. God's love gives children rights

- Christianity created human rights
- Especially to the vulnerable - children are the most vulnerable

God loves the presence of justice in society not because it makes for a society whose excellence God admires, but because God loves the members of society - loves them... with the love of benevolent desire. God desires that each and every human being shall flourish, what the Old Testament writers call shalom. That is why God loves justice. God desires the flourishing of each and every one of God's human creatures; justice is indispensable to that. Love and justice are not pitted against each other but intertwined.

- Nicholas Wolterstorff

God's Family Cares - For Vulnerable Children

1. God "sets the lonely in families" (v. 6)

2. Family is Redemptive

3. How Foster / Adoption Addresses Abortion & Trafficking

- "Foster/Adoption is our Anti-Abortion & Anti-Trafficking Ministry"
- Trafficking: 90%+ trafficked from foster care (upstream)
- Abortion: womb is most vulnerable place (Down's Syndrome)
- Power of language: "fetus" (dehumanizing) vs. "person"
- Is 49:15-16: Even if a mother could forget her child, I will not forget you. I have carved you on the palm of my hand.
- Pro-Grace: being both Pro-Woman & Pro-Life
- Being Consistently Pro-Life: from womb to the tomb

We are fighting abortion by adoption - by care of the mother and adoption for her baby. Please don't kill the child. I want the child. Please give me the child... We have saved over 3,000 children from abortion. These children have brought such love and joy to their adopting parents and have grown up so full of love and joy.

- Mother Theresa

God's Future is - Justice for Vulnerable Children

God's past shapes our hope for the future (v. 24-28)

1. The Church is a Redemptive Family

- "Our Father" "household of God" "brothers & sisters"
- Not just "what we do out there," but "who we are in here"
- Inviting people into healthy community

2. Grace, not Guilt, is the Motive

- Jaime Wallace story
- Don't kill your family to save the world
- It starts at home (Preventative vs. Redemptive)

3. You are a Vulnerable Child

- God loves our angry prayers
- It starts with receiving grace

Jesus became a vulnerable child

Jesus welcomes vulnerable children

Jesus welcomes us as vulnerable children