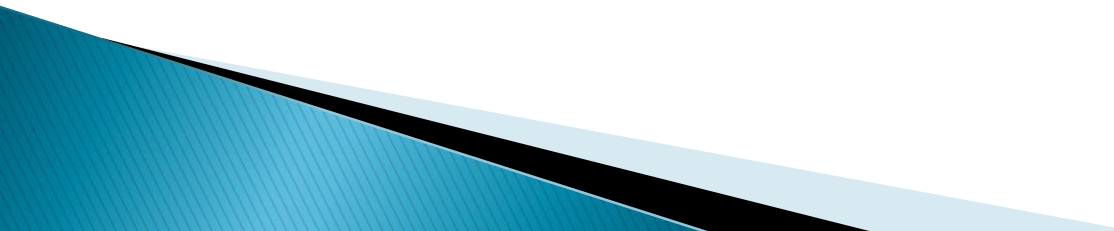


What Does it Mean to be  
*Thoroughly* Pro-Life?

# What does it mean to be *thoroughly* pro-life?

- ▶ All the life that God created is the “life” that we Christians should be “for.” – totally pro-life from a biblical, not a worldly (or a political) standpoint – go to scriptures for answers

# In the NT, 3 Greek words translated as “life”

- ▶ **Zoe**—the uncreated, divine power/energy/force contained in God Himself
  - ▶ **Bios**—life on earth—the “creation,” the “biosphere—the regions of the surface, the atmosphere, and the hydrosphere of the earth occupied by living organisms (organic life)
  - ▶ **Psuche**—focus of our thoroughly pro-life theme today
- 

# Psuche (the *life* of humans)

“soul” or “soul-life”

the “life” (span and dimensions) of the human being

**Matt. 16:25**—“Whoever desires to save his *psuche* shall lose it; but whoever loses his *psuche* for My sake shall find it.”

- ▶ ***Psuche***--the psychological life of the human being—i.e., our minds, emotions, wills, and imaginations by extension, ***psuche*** encompasses the human being’s human life in its entirety, from womb to tomb, including the physical, psychological, spiritual, relational, and material/financial aspects of life

**Ezekiel 18:4**—“The soul that sins will die.”

# Scriptures on Life's Beginning:

## *When Do the Pre-Born Become Human?*

- ▶ **at conception?** – Catholic and other religions
- ▶ **at “ensoulment”**—“the moment at which a human being gains a soul” – opinions vary from conception up to the 7<sup>th</sup> month; early church understanding—for males—from conception--40<sup>th</sup> day (6<sup>th</sup> month); for females—80<sup>th</sup> day (11<sup>th</sup> month—after birth!)
- ▶ **at viability** (when the “fetus” can live outside the womb)—24 weeks
- ▶ **at “first breath”** – when born—Jewish Talmudic law

most religions do not endorse abortion and consider abortion a very serious sin. Hindu religion: “The destruction of an embryo is tantamount to the killing of a holy or a learned person.”

**Ps. 139: 13-16**—“For You created my *inmost being* (lit. ‘kidneys’, so physical self; also, “urges, desires”—so psuche—one’s soul-life of thoughts, feelings, decisions); you *knit me* (physical and psychological self) together in my mother’s womb...I am fearfully (awe-inspiringly) and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful...Your eyes saw my unformed body...”

**Jeremiah 1:4-5**—“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you...”



## God's a Pro-Lifer: His View of the Value of Human Beings

**Ge. 1:27,31**—"So God created mankind in His own image; in the image of God He created them. Male and female He created them..."

God saw all that He had made, and it was very good."

**Ps. 8:4-5**—"What is man(kind)?...You have made humanity a little lower than the angels and crowned humanity with glory and honor." God has made the redeemed "kings" and "priests."

# God Wants Us to Treat Other Humans As He—Not the Devil—Does

**John 10:10**—“The thief comes only to steal, to kill, and to destroy; I have come that they may have life (zoe) abundantly (to the full) ---the fullness of zoe life would be psuche and bios life (presently fallen forms of life) made whole!

- ▶ Ask yourself this simple question—am I releasing life or death to others?



# Be Like Dad!

- ▶ **Matthew 5:43-45**—“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. (How? By showing love to all persons.) He causes His sun to rise on (both) the evil and the good and sends rain on (both) the righteous and the unrighteous. Be perfect (complete in love) therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
- ▶ **James 1:27**—“What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself uncorrupted by the world.”
- ▶ **Ps. 83:3-4**—“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”

# How to Treat Others Endowed with Human “Life”

## “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Lev.19.18

**How to Treat Others Endowed with Human “Life”**  
– “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Lev.  
**19:18**

**Eph. 5:25-29—Your wife is your “neighbor!”**  
“Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her...In the same way, husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they *feed and care for* their own body, just as Christ does the church...”

**Luke 10: 25-37—The Good Samaritan**

# How to Treat Others Endowed with Human “Life”

## “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” Lev.19.18

- ▶ *How we treat humans at all life stages and in all conditions should reflect the truths of how God treats humanity and what His salvation through Jesus brought to humanity--humans are God’s image-bearers (no matter how distorted that image is), our unfallen (and then redeemed) humanity is seen by Him as very good, and He has given us glory and honor as His “crown of creation.”*
- ▶ *from womb to tomb, for all people, at all times*

# What Does it Mean to be *Thoroughly* Pro-Life? Pt 2

# Zoe life—the highest form of earthly life

- ▶ uncreated, divine life – that makes (creates) all other “life”
- ▶ the power/energy/force *contained in God Himself* “eternal” life—life that is characteristic of the “eternal” dimension of heaven,
- ▶ but also that life expressed whenever God releases His own life into the universe—**all manifestations of the Spirit of God, starting as God’s zoe created matter and energy in their various forms (“in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”)**

## **Zoe saves (makes whole) Restores to its own nature—perfect, eternal life**

- ▶ John 3:16 “God so loved the world (kosmos—creation/including humanity)...but that the world could have everlasting (eternal) life (zoe).” For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save (sozo—to redeem, make whole) the world through Him.”
- ▶ A human “getting saved” in the entrance of zoe life into a human spirit – “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.”
- ▶ Healing “virtue” is zoe life in manifestation
- ▶ The “finger of God” in deliverance is zoe life in manifestation
- ▶ Caring for the orphan and widow is zoe life redeeming society



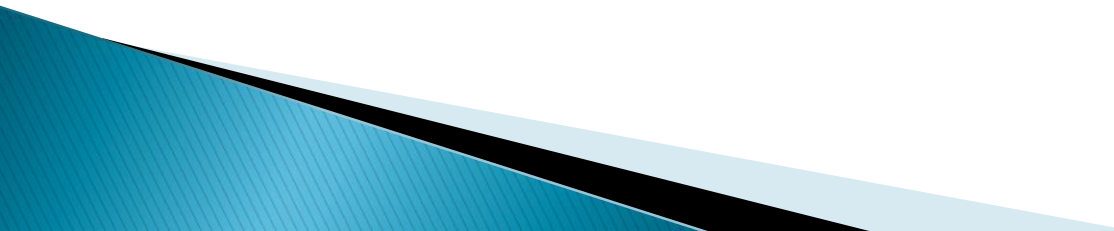
## **Zoe Resides (Is Sourced) *WithIn* All 3 Persons of the Godhead:**

- ▶ **In the Father**--John 5:26—"Even as the Father possess life (zoe) in Himself, so He has granted for the Son to have life (zoe) in Himself."
- ▶ **In the Spirit**—Romans 8:2—"because through Jesus Christ, the Spirit who gives life (zoe) has set you free from the law of sin and death"
- ▶ see this in Luke 6:19—where "power/virtue" (dunamis—the power of life) flowed from Him, healing the sick

- ▶ **In the Son**—John 1:4—“In Him (the Word, Jesus) was life...
- ▶ 1 John 1:1-2—“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the *Word of Life* (and the *Life* was manifested), and we have seen and testify and report to you *the eternal Life*, which was with the Father and was manifested to us).”
- ▶ John 10:10—“I am the Way, the Truth, and *the Life*.”
- ▶ Hebrews 7:16—“....(Jesus) did not become a priest according to the law of physical descent (through bios life), but on the basis of the power of **an indestructible (eternal) life (zoe)**.
- ▶ **Zoe (Salvation Life) Is Found Exclusively in God’s**—1 John 5:11-12—“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”



## About zoe

- ▶ it is “unfallen” life; the other two forms are fallen
  - ▶ by its nature, it is superior to the other two forms and has power to shape and transform them – healing, deliverance –
  - ▶ it “contacts” bios and psuche through the church’s words, deeds, and presence-- through words of command authority, empowerment to do “God works” – “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit” –Zech. 4:6
- 

## About zoe

- ▶ the church is the “distributor” of God’s zoe life on earth
- ▶ prayer is the primary way on earth that God releases His life into situations that require transformation—wherever “the kingdom” comes, life overcomes the decay and death caused by satan and demonic oppression—those in Christ are called “new creations;” ultimately the old earth creation will be a “new earth”

- ▶ **Bios life—all living things on earth—the**  
“creation,” the “biosphere—the regions of the surface, the atmosphere, and the hydrosphere of the earth occupied by living organisms (organic life)”
- ▶ **Gen. 1: 1-31---** “all aspects of the *creation* were made ‘good’ by the Creator” – God loves/nourishes/cherishes His creation
- ▶ **Creation--Grk:** the sum or aggregate of things “made” from nothing)

# God Owns and Loves His Creation—Bios in All Its Forms

- ▶ **Ps. 24:1-2**—“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.” “Earth”—light and darkness, day and night, dry land and sea, heaven and earth, sun and moon, and the great domed firmament that divides the waters above from the waters below—all these are aspects of the “earth” that is owned by the Lord and comprise the full dimensionalities of “life” – “bios”
- ▶ **Deut. 10:14**—“To the Lord belong the heavens and the earth—all that is in it.”
- ▶ **1 Chron. 29:11**—God owns all “in the heavens and on the earth.”
- ▶ **Nehemiah 9:6**—“The Lord has made everything...and He preserves it all...”

# Zoe Touching Bios and Psuche Produces Newness of Life

- ▶ **2 Co. 5:17**—“Anyone in Christ is a new creation...behold the new has arrived.” We are “new creations” now in our spirits (filled with zoe life)
- ▶ **Rev. 21:1**—He will create a “new earth.” Why? We are meant to dwell on the earth, and He loves the environment He has made for us.
- ▶ --“firstfruits” of this ‘new earth’ reality can be seen in revival hotspots in the earth—Almolonga, Guatemala – soil healed, produces mega-fruit and vegetables! (see revival in Almolonga, Guatemala)
- ▶ --soil is cleansed and becomes super-productive; desert turns into gardens—Israel, nations where Christianity has taken root and transformed society—called societal “lift”

## The Creation's Ultimate Newness of Life

- ▶ **Ro. 8:19-22**—This present fallen creation (bios) will eventually be fully redeemed—made entirely new. “For the creation itself looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. We know that the entire has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” – “the renewal of all things, including creation itself, will occur so as to “house” us in our new bodies—that new reality (the fullness of the kingdom of God) is here now only *partially* in the inbreaking of God’s presence), but it will be *fully* manifested when He returns and we receive the fullness of our salvation—“the redemption of our bodies” (v. 23)

## We Are Designed to be God's Stewards (Rulers) of the Earth

- ▶ **Gen. 1:26—The Dominion/Creation Care Mandate**—“Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they 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.” .28—“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and *subdue* it. **Rule over** all living things.’”
- ▶ *From NIV First-Century Study Bible Notes*—“subdue” and “have dominion/rule over” – Subdue—“Might humanity be responsible for ensuring that all living things are able to be fruitful and increase in number? Working with and caring for God’s creation, as a king might *care for* his subjects, seems to be the meaning behind the verbs ‘rule’ and ‘subdue.’”
- ▶ **Biblically, we are “stewards” of bios**—a biblical *steward* is “a manager/caretaker/supervisor of an estate to whom the estate owner has entrusted the management of his land and activities on the land”

## The Vineyard Takes Creation Stewardship Seriously

- ▶ **Vineyard Justice Network**—“VJN equips Vineyard churches to confront injustice in many ways: working to end human trafficking, promoting racial reconciliation, eradicating poverty, and caring for the environment. Intelligent, loving care (by the church) is not just for the human creation, but for the animal, vegetable, mineral, and oceanic creation as well.”
- ▶ —would include **climate issues** – whatever the cause (cyclical/human), our climate is warming to a dangerous level – according to Gen. 1:26,28, we humans have a responsibility to do what we can to “subdue” that dangerous development.
- ▶ **--from Grace Vineyard Church**—“We are a team of people from Grace Vineyard Church who deeply care about the natural environment that God has placed us in. We believe that caring about that environment is an integral part of following Jesus, and we want to serve Him wholeheartedly...as those who steward God’s earth.”



- ▶ **Considering Climate Change/Global Warming/The Church's Response**

## Conclusion: How Are We to be Pro-Bios?

- ▶ Biblically, God's people have a stewardship obligation, to do what we can do, led by God, to “walk alongside” creation in love and care to the maximum extent possible –
- ▶ Can we not pollute our rivers, can we not dump trash into the ocean? – Can we not pollute our air? Can we not deforest earth's rainforests, called by some “the lungs of the planet.” Not unreasonable, unworkable solutions, but rational, do-able, compassionate care for our environment
- ▶ **Can Each of Us Take One Small Step for Man? – The Trillion Trees Act**