

**“WORLDVIEW IN FOCUS”**  
**Session 7: “Popular causes and the world views behind them.”**  
**Rev. Rick Dietzman**  
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INTRODUCTION

**I. Values and motivators**

A. Quality of Life

John 10:10

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

1 Peter 1:2

*You have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*

Jude 1:1-2

*To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.*

B. Sanctity of life

Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT

*Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.*

Psalm. 139:13 (NLT)

*“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex.”*

**II. What is specifically sanctified (holy or set apart) according to God?**

A. Human life

*(God to Jeremiah) “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for My holy purpose.” Jer. 1:5 (GW)*

B. Sabbath rest (more specifically a life of habitual trust in God)

Exodus 20:8

*"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

Leviticus 23:3

*"There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a Sabbath to the LORD."*

C. Marriage

Hebrews 13:4

*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*

Ephesians 5:25-27

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.*

D. The Temple and Sacrifice (Acknowledging the Lord as Savior and forgiver)

Exodus 30:10

*Once a year Aaron shall make atonement on its horns. This annual atonement must be made with the blood of the atoning sin offering for the generations to come. It is most holy to the LORD."*

Hebrews 10:10

*We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*

E. Worshipping God alone (not false gods)

Psalms 106:28-29

*They yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor and ate sacrifices offered to lifeless gods; they provoked the LORD to anger by their wicked deeds, and a plague broke out among them.*

2 Corinthians 6:16

*What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.*

### **III. Sanctity trumps Quality (God's purposes are more important than my happiness or comfort or "quality of life")**

Romans 12:1

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.*

Mark 8:34-36

*Jesus said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"*

2 Corinthians 7:1

*Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

### **IV. THE POINT: Many of the major popular causes of our day (and controversies about them) are about the weight of Quality of life and Sanctity of Life**

- The Abortion Debate
- Euthanasia (when to end a life)
- Definition of Marriage
- Cloning, Stem Cell and DNA experiments

Sometimes, popular causes make something else holy (besides what God specifies) and it becomes the trump card. One of the most interesting: Environmentalism.

#### **A. Environmentalism as Quality of life**

1 Timothy 6:17

*Put your hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

Genesis 1:25-29

*God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.*

## B. Environmentalism as Sanctity of life

Romans 1:20-25

*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.*

Nature is holy – sanctified (Mother Earth etc.)

Examples: Disney's Pocahontas, the Movie Avatar

## V. How do Christians decide what to participate in? and why? Moral causes, Peace movements, environment (including eliminating disease, clean water), education, combating poverty, women's empowerment (see attached article)

1. If the cause falls under one of the Sanctity of Life emphases in the Bible, you are in the zone.
2. Be very cautious of promoting idolatry (combining worship services with other religions for example, or activities which lead to immorality)
3. Quality of Life is not a good enough reason by itself, but can be part of the goal.

Micah 6:8

*O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*



# To Fight Poverty, Invest in Girls

By NANCY GIBBS TIME magazine February 14, 2011

We know what the birth of a revolution looks like: A student stands before a tank. A fruit seller sets himself on fire. A line of monks link arms in a human chain. Crowds surge, soldiers fire, gusts of rage pull down the monuments of tyrants, and maybe, sometimes, justice rises from the flames.

But sometimes freedom and opportunity slip in through the back door, when a quieter subversion of the status quo unleashes change that is just as revolutionary. This is the tantalizing idea for activists concerned with poverty, with disease, with the rise of violent extremism: if you want to change the world, invest in girls. ([See pictures of women in war.](#))

In recent years, more development aid than ever before has been directed at women — but that doesn't mean it is reaching the girls who need it. Across much of the developing world, by the time she is 12, a girl is tending house, cooking, cleaning. She eats what's left after the men and boys have eaten; she is less likely to be vaccinated, to see a doctor, to attend school. "If only I can get educated, I will surely be the President," a teenager in rural Malawi tells a researcher, but the odds are against her: Why educate a daughter who will end up working for her in-laws rather than a son who will support you? In sub-Saharan Africa, fewer than 1 in 5 girls make it to secondary school. Nearly half are married by the time they are 18; 1 in 7 across the developing world marries before she is 15. Then she gets pregnant. The leading cause of death for girls 15 to 19 worldwide is not accident or violence or disease; it is complications from pregnancy. Girls under 15 are up to five times as likely to die while having children than are women in their 20s, and their babies are more likely to die as well.

There are countless reasons rescuing girls is the right thing to do. It's also the smart thing to do. Consider the virtuous circle: An extra year of primary school boosts girls' eventual wages by 10% to 20%. An extra year of secondary school adds 15% to 25%. Girls who stay in school for seven or more years typically marry four years later and have two fewer children than girls who drop out. Fewer dependents per worker allows for greater economic growth. And the World Food Programme has found that when girls and women earn income, they reinvest 90% of it in their families. They buy books, medicine, bed nets. For men, that figure is more like 30% to 40%. "Investment in girls' education may well be the highest-return investment available in the developing world," Larry Summers wrote when he was chief economist at the World Bank. Of such cycles are real revolutions born. ([See TIME's video "Education in Haiti: A Teacher's Passion and Vision for Change."](#))

The benefits are so obvious, you have to wonder why we haven't paid attention. Less than 2¢ of every development dollar goes to girls — and that is a victory compared with a few years ago, when it was more like half a cent. Roughly 9 of 10 youth programs are aimed at boys. One reason for this is that when it comes to lifting up girls, we don't know as much about how to do it. We have to start by listening to girls, which much of the

world is not culturally disposed to do. Development experts say the solutions need to be holistic, providing access to safe spaces, schools and health clinics with programs designed specifically for girls' needs. Success depends on infrastructure, on making fuel and water more available so girls don't have to spend as many as 15 hours a day fetching them. It requires enlisting whole communities — mothers, fathers, teachers, religious leaders — in helping girls realize their potential instead of seeing them as dispensable or, worse, as prey. ([See a brief history of women in power.](#))

A more surprising army is being enlisted as well. A new initiative called [Girl Up](#) aims to mobilize 100,000 American girls to raise money and awareness to fight poverty, sexual violence and child marriage. "This generation of 12-to-18-year-olds are all givers," says executive director Elizabeth Gore, the force of nature behind the ingeniously simple Nothing but Nets campaign to fight malaria, about her new United Nations Foundation enterprise. "They gave after Katrina. They gave after the tsunami and Haiti. More than any earlier generation, they feel they know girls around the world."

And so the word goes out, by text, by tweet, on Facebook, that coming soon to a high school gym near you may be a Girl Up pep rally, where kids can learn what it feels like to carry a jerrican of water for a long distance, or how sending \$5 to Malawi can stock a health clinic with girl-friendly materials or buy school supplies. Or how \$5 to Ethiopia can make the difference in a girl's not being married when she's 10. And one at a time, a rising generation of American girls helps create the next generation of leaders, for the coming quiet revolutions.