

# Sanctity of Human Life: All of Life

## Colossians 3: 5-14

Marginalized: “to put or keep someone in a powerless or unimportant position within a society or group.”

### 1) Sin is the cause of marginalization

Sin: “my claim to my right to myself.”

- There are things that I believe are mine to have.
- It’s my job to fight for, promote, protect, and defend those things that fulfill my desires, wants, and goals for myself.
- if there is someone or someone’s who might threaten my ability to pursue the things to which I have a right, I must stand against them so as to protect my right to myself.

### 2) The Gospel is the solution to marginalization

It becomes not a matter of doing, but a matter of our identity.

We must find our identity in Christ, not in the labels that bind us with people who have the same labels.

- Jesus demanded no rights for himself. Rather, he emptied himself, became a servant, and thought of others more than himself. Philippians 2:3-8

### 3) Our response- put on...

Compassion (Isaiah 53: 5), kindness and meekness (gentleness), humility, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness

And above all, love- love moves us from being “simply innocent” to becoming advocates.

- Putting on love keeps us from being against (or for) an *issue*, and makes us for *people* made in God’s image

### Being *in* Christ is much different than imitating Christ

- Being *like* him doesn’t become our pursuit, *he* becomes our pursuit.
- We aren’t as interested in knowing *about* him, but knowing *him*.
- His *teaching* isn’t the answer to sin, *He* is the answer to sin. *He* is the answer to marginalization and injustice. *He* is the answer to everything.
- He becomes our greatest pursuit, because he’s the greatest thing worth pursuing. (Matthew 13:44)

### Questions:

- 1) What labels do you/have you carried as your identity other than “in Christ?” (examples may include nationality, skin color, political party, type of work you do, etc.)
- 2) Do you agree or disagree with Oswald Chamber’s definition of sin, “my claim to my right to myself?” Give examples of ways that you find yourself “claiming your right to yourself.” What things do you believe you have the right to and are yours to demand?
- 3) Which characteristics of Christ listed in vs. 12-14 do you struggle “putting on?”
- 4) How do we grow into a fuller, deeper understanding that we are chosen, holy, and beloved? *I believe that this is a more successful way of being able to “put on” Christ’s characteristics than trying harder*