

"THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE"  
**Psalms 139:1-6, 13-16**

LORD, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup> You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD. <sup>5</sup> You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me. <sup>6</sup> This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it. <sup>13</sup> For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. <sup>15</sup> My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

## INTRODUCTION

David Ring seemed to born dead, October 28, 1953. The Dr. set his little body aside to tend his mother. After 18 minutes, he began to stir. Quick acting medical personnel got him breathing, but oxygen deprivation left him with cerebral palsy, which short-circuits the brain's control over one's voluntary (and sometimes involuntary) muscles. David suffers from a speech impediment, hands that don't cooperate, and a limp. His dad, a Baptist pastor, died when he was 10. His mom died from cancer four years later. He dearly struggled with losing his mom, believing she was the only woman who'd ever love him. Orphaned at 14, he was cast from house to house with no true place to call home. He endured constant physical pain, humiliating public ridicule, and frequent discouragement. Relatives feared he'd never marry, have children, drive a car, earn a living, or take care of himself. He dropped out of high school and attempted suicide multiple times.

But at age 16, with his sister's prayerful encouragement, David found a new life in **Christ** in 1970. **Jesus** taught him to see his disability as a gift, like the man "born blind" of whom **Jesus** said, "'This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him'" (**John 9:1-3**). Once David began to see God's design in his circumstances, he began moving forward. His signature message is, "I have cerebral palsy, but cerebral palsy don't have me." He graduated high school. In 1976, he earned a B. A. from William Jewell College in Liberty, MO, as a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. David is now 65. He's blessed with a devoted wife, four healthy children, and three grandchildren. He drives a car. Since 1973, he speaks to about 100,000 people each year at churches, conventions, schools and corporate events. He's been featured repeatedly on nationally televised programs. At his speaking engagements, he sells T-shirts with the slogan, "Don't Whine...SHINE!" He says when people wrestle with difficult life experiences, the "Why" question often gets in the way. One of David Ring's axioms is, "Don't ask God why; ask what. What do You want me to do with this?" His web site, Reach Out & Touch Ministries, is [www.davidring.org](http://www.davidring.org). *Just as I Am, the Life of David Ring*, was published in 1996. His updated life story, *The Boy Born Dead*, was released in 2016.

Today is National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, first declared by President Ronald Reagan on January 22, 1984, the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U. S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling of 1973 striking down anti-abortion laws of all 50 states and U.S. territories. President Reagan declared, "The values and freedoms we cherish as Americans rest on our fundamental commitment to the sanctity of human life. The first of the 'unalienable rights' affirmed by our Declaration of Independence is the right to life itself, a right the Declaration states has been endowed by our Creator on all human beings—whether young or old, weak or strong, healthy or handicapped. Since 1973, however, more than 15 million unborn children have died in legalized abortions [the number now exceeds 61 million]—a tragedy of stunning dimensions that stands in sad contrast to our belief that each life is sacred. These children, over tenfold the number of Americans lost in all our Nation's wars [now forty times this number], will never laugh, never sing, never experience the joy of human love; nor will they strive to heal the sick, or feed the poor, or make peace among nations. Abortion has denied them the first and most basic of human rights, and we are infinitely poorer for their loss."

Medical practice in the United States always made exception for abortion if the mother's life is at stake. But one of the five main arguments of abortion advocates is, "Every child should be a wanted child." When children with severe deformities or birth defects are aborted, or if their parents have crippling health or financial issues, they claim it spares these children and their parents extreme hardships by ending their "misery." David Ring's "ringing testimony" (pun intended) of a wonderfully fulfilled and inspirational life should be sufficient warning to those to believe they can play God about which children have the right to live or not.

The "pro-choice" crowd denies any choice to pre-borns about whether or not they live. It's up to Pro-Life people to give voice to these most helpless members of our society and protect them from those who seek to deny them their right to life. Over the past 30 years, increasingly tightened abortion laws and greater availability of ultrasound machines dramatically decreased the number of abortions nationwide. In the peak year of 1990, the lives of 1.5 million infants were ended. By 2015, the most recent year for which full data is available, the number of abortions in the U. S. fell to 638,169; a 42% drop! Arizona law now requires all women to undergo an ultrasound and then wait 24 hours prior to any abortion. Women are often 2-3 times more likely to keep their babies when they see clear evidence their fetus is not just a "mass of tissue," or "only a potential human being," as abortion advocates insist. On January 10, Arizona was rated the #1 pro-life state by the nation's top pro-life legal organization, Americans United for Life (and for the second year in a row!), due to our state's commitment to provide women and their children the most legal protections.

"Jane Roe" was the legal pseudonym for Norma McCorvey, the plaintiff in *Roe v. Wade*. McCorvey filed court documents against Henry Wade, Dallas County's district attorney (1951-1987), who enforced a Texas law prohibiting abortion except to save a woman's life. McCorvey met with her lawyers just twice: once for beer and pizza; the other time to sign an affidavit (which she didn't read). Her lawyers told her abortion just dealt with a piece of tissue. Abortion was a taboo topic in 1970. Norma had dropped out of school at the age of 14 and honestly believed "abortion" meant a child was prevented from coming into existence. She never appeared in court. She found out about the infamous ruling from the newspapers. Yet, the baby she was seeking to abort was born and placed for adoption. She never had an abortion.

In the late-1990s, McCorvey worked at a Dallas abortion clinic when Operation Rescue moved its offices next door. Phillip Benham, Operation Rescue's national director, shared "the Gospel of Jesus Christ" with Norma. After giving her heart to **Jesus**, she became a committed pro-life advocate up to the day she entered Heaven, February 18, 2017. Her lawyers preyed upon her ignorance to launch a crusade against the sanctity of human life, in which the right of a child to live is sacrificed to gods of irresponsibility, convenience, and lust. The younger and less informed women are, the easier it is to mislead them about pregnancy. An eight-year-old asked how her mom knew she was pregnant. Mom said she'd taken a pregnancy test. "Oh," said the daughter, "What questions were on the test?" [[show video, Baby's First Months; https://www.nrlc.org/site/](#)]

## WHY HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED

Why is human life sacred? **Genesis 1:26-27** reveals men and women crown God's creation: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.'<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female." We alone, of all Earth's creatures, possess self-consciousness and a capacity to make decisions based on the standards of our Maker, rather than operating solely by genetic programming and instinct. Because we are the only earthly creatures with whom our Creator can interact upon moral, intellectual, and spiritual grounds, **Psalms 139** compellingly describes how close God wants to be to us. Let's reread **vss. 1-6**: "LORD, You have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. <sup>3</sup>You observe my travels and my rest; You are aware of all my ways. <sup>4</sup>Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD. <sup>5</sup>You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me. <sup>6</sup>This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it."

"You have searched me and known me" means God knows our quirks, habits, strengths, and weaknesses better than we know ourselves. For example, God understands life may be more challenging for us if we happen to be a blond(e). So He'll understand if we're trapped on an escalator for hours if the power goes off. He'll sympathize if we give up trying to go water skiing because we cannot find a lake with a slope. And He'll laugh at the answer to the question, "How do blond brain cells die?" and He hears "Alone."

**Vss. 2-4** tell us our Creator is not only aware of where we are at any given moment; He also sees how our thoughts develop and understands what we're thinking even before a word comes out of our mouths! **Vs. 5**, "You have encircled me; You have placed Your hand on me," assures us God's Fatherly hand is never farther than an arm's length from us; ready to guide, restrain, or to care for us as He knows best. The awareness that the LORD God of Heaven and Earth seeks to be this intimately involved with mere humans staggered Psalm-writer David's imagination, as **vs. 6** reveals: "This extraordinary knowledge is beyond me. It is lofty; I am unable to reach it"!

**Vss. 13-16** reveal God's intimate knowledge of us is only surpassed by the extraordinary care He expends in giving us life. "For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb." "Inward parts" refers to our "emotions" and "affections"; how He designed the emotional side of our personalities. "Knit me together" refers to the intricacies of the plans by which God designed us, as the product of a skilled weaver. "I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well. <sup>15</sup> My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth." Though unseen by anyone but God, from the first moments of our conception God's creative power is wondrously at work developing and designing us within our mother's body. Our human eye, for example, is so incredibly intricate that it moves about 100,000 times each day with automatic focusing and can handle 1.5 million simultaneous messages. Furthermore, our God-designed human eye is sensitive to light from a range of about 10-billion-to-one! That's from the brightest thing we can see, maybe a sun-drenched snowscape, down to as little as a single photon of light. And everywhere we look, our two eyes focus automatically and on the same spot. "Your eyes saw me when I was formless," our text concludes, "all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began." There could be no stronger statement concerning the sanctity and dignity of an unborn child. God's perfect knowledge of our past, present, and our future makes Him aware of us even before we begin to develop in our mother's womb. He gives us life to fulfill the grand plan He has for each of us!

## CONCLUSION

In 1986, Dr. Frederic Loomis faced the most difficult decision a physician could ever make—whether to allow a deformed baby to live or die. He had only seconds to decide. He'd delivered hundreds of babies but this one was different. The infant lay in a breech position, promising at best a difficult and dangerous birth. One of its feet stretched only to the knee of the other leg. Furthermore, it was missing a thigh. The mother, a frail person experiencing her first pregnancy, remained unaware of the grossly deformed child struggling to survive. Dr. Loomis closed his eyes. At his fingertips squirmed a pitiful creature yet unborn. He thought, "Would not the most loving thing be to detain the birth long enough to cause the child to be stillborn?" He agonized within himself: "Will this kid not be considered a freak, a twisted burden to its delicate mother? No one will ever know if I spare this family from inevitable pain." The doctor, through the baby's cord, felt its heartbeat dancing in rhythm to his own wildly racing heart. As Dr. Loomis continued to prevent the birth, he felt the normal foot pressing for passage into the world. Suddenly, he could no longer justify "playing God." Instead, he would trust God to care for this child against what seemed to be impossible odds. Dr. Loomis delivered the infant into the world, which, he sensed, would be very unkind to her.

In the years that followed, Dr. Loomis often second-guessed his decision. He watched the anguish of the family as desperate parents sought in vain to find some correction for their child's deformity. Then they moved away. Dr. Loomis continued to fault himself for the heartache he'd placed upon this family.

But he found peace quite unexpectedly at the hospital Christmas party of 2003. At this particular party, the most heavenly music filled the room. His sadness seemed to dissipate as the rich tones of "Silent Night" washed his anguished spirit. After the concert, a woman approached him. "Doctor," she said excitedly. "You saw her!" Dr. Loomis studied the woman's face, wanting to recognize her but unable to recall the memory. "I'm sorry. I should know you, but you may need to help me." "Don't you remember the little girl with only one good leg, 17 years ago?" Remember; it was the one thing in his life that he couldn't forget! In disbelief, he listened to this woman's story. "That baby was my daughter, doctor. And I saw you watching her play the harp tonight! She has an artificial leg. She's doing well." At her Mom's bidding, the lovely harpist walked toward them. With sappy eyes, Dr. Loomis enveloped the girl in his arms. "Please" he said in a tightening voice, "please play Silent Night for me one more time." The young lady returned to her harp and played his request with poise and perfection. As she played, Dr. Loomis reflected upon the incredible gift of life. He exhaled 17 years of questions and wondering whether or not it was wise to grant a baby its life. He embraced more passionately the sacredness of life and the godly sanctity of every human being!