

# Marbleton Community Free Will Baptist Church

1703 Marbleton Road

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Website: marbletonfwb.com

## WELCOME

January is Sanctity of Human Life Month, and this year **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday** is celebrated today, January 21, 2024. Established in 1988 by President Ronald Regan, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is a day set aside to celebrate and recognize the value and dignity of human life. We praise God that Roe V. Wade was overturned but there is still a battle going on with those that want abortion rights enacted and prayers are needed!

### Week of January 21, 2024 Schedule of Services:

Sunday School	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship Service	10:45 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, Meet for Prayer	6:00 P.M.
* Special Prayer Request: Pulpit Committee and God's direction for a new pastor	

Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>, **Secret Sister Reveal Fellowship** at 6:00 P.M. at the Fellowship Hall. Those who participated in the program in 2023 are encouraged to attend to reveal yourself to your sister.

Wednesday, Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Happy Anniversary: Frank & Janice King

**CHURCH NOTES:** There will be a **Board Meeting** next Sunday evening (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>) at 5:00 P.M. and the **Business Meeting** will be next Wednesday (Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>) evening the 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladies Bible Study** – Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M.

There is a corner somewhere that I alone can fill.  
If I should fail to take my place, no other ever will.  
It's all a part of His great plan that each worker be.  
And somewhere in His vineyard wide, my Lords needs me!

### *What does it mean to believe in the sanctity of life?*

The phrase “sanctity of life” reflects the belief that, because people are made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26–27), human life has an inherently sacred attribute that should be protected and respected at all times. While God gave humanity the authority to kill and eat other forms of life (Genesis 9:3), the murdering of other human beings is expressly forbidden, with the penalty being death (Genesis 9:6).

Humanity was created in God’s image, but sin has corrupted that image. There is nothing inherently sacred in fallen man. The sanctity of human life is not due to the fact that we are such wonderful and good beings. The only reason the sanctity of life applies to humanity is the fact that God created us in His image and set us apart from all other forms of life. Although that image has indeed been marred by sin, His image is still present in humanity. We are like God, and that likeness means that human life is always to be treated with dignity and respect.

The sanctity of life means that humanity is more sacred than the rest of creation. Human life is not holy in the same sense that God is holy. Only God is holy in and of Himself. Human life is only holy in the sense of being “set apart” from all other life created by God. Many apply the sanctity of life to issues like abortion and euthanasia, and, while it definitely applies to those issues, it applies to much more. The sanctity of life should motivate us to combat all forms of evil and injustice that are perpetuated against human life. Violence, abuse, oppression, human trafficking, and many other evils are also violations of the sanctity of life.

Beyond the sanctity of life, there is a much better argument against these things: the greatest commandments. In Matthew 22:37–39 Jesus says, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” In these commandments, we see that our actions are to be motivated by love for God and love for others. If we love God, we will value our own lives as part of God’s plan, to do His will until it comes about that His will is better served by our deaths. And we will love and care for His people (Galatians 6:10; Colossians 3:12–15). We will see to the needs of the elderly and sick. We will protect others from harm—whether from abortion, euthanasia, human trafficking, or other abuses. While the sanctity of life can be the foundation, love must be the motivation.

### *The Life Ethic:*

Where Does It Come From? The Bible establishes that human life is sacred in Genesis 1:27:

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (ESV)

To be created in the likeness of God means that each human bears His image, and with it, a value beyond our unique characteristics or individual attributes. Nothing else in God’s created order has the distinction of reflecting His image; it’s a privileged status reserved only for humankind.

This is a bit of a mystery as God’s image in us isn’t something tangible we can see, taste or feel; yet it establishes our significance and worth at the highest level. The Bible says we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). From the miracle of life in the womb to the body’s ability to regenerate cells and tissue for healing, we see God’s amazing fingerprint at work. Humans are breathtaking creatures embodying a touch of the Creator Himself and reflected in the wonder of human life.