



The Value of Life

Adapted from “X-Factor” series by Scott Erickson.

Does a human life have value? If so, what is the value. In an interesting post, Elesha Coffman writes the following:

It costs \$65,000 a year to keep Charles Colson's autistic grandson Max in a special-needs school. Utilitarian philosophers such as Peter Singer would decry this expenditure as a giant waste, because Max will never lead a normal life, and he and other students like him completely disrupt the lives of their caregivers. Besides, think of all that could be purchased with that \$65,000—medicines for African AIDS victims, meals for the homeless, childcare for single mothers, new police cars for violent neighborhoods. Investing so much in the education of one autistic boy makes no logical sense, but Colson believes it's the right thing to do.

How much is life worth? Why is every life precious? How does an ethic of love work in the real world? ¹

¹ Elesha Coffman, “The Value of Human Life: What is human life really worth?,” *Christianity Today*, January 1, 2005, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/t/value-of-human-life.html> (accessed July 21, 2017).

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COURAGE

C1: Do a Google search on murder. Write down 10 things you see from your research.

C2: Do a Google search for anger. Write down 10 things you see from your research.

C3: Do a Bible search for anger and murder. How many verses can you find in the Bible that addresses each one?

STRENGTH

S1: The Old Testament Law is compared to a mirror, because it reveals man's sin. 9 of the 10 Commandments are repeated in the New Testament for believers. Read and answer the following.

James 1:22–25 (ESV)

- From these verses, what can you glean regarding the law?
- When you hear the word “law” what comes to your mind?

S2: Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:13 (ESV)

- What do you think this verse means?
- Do you still think this verse is for believers today? Why?

S3: What are God's thought regarding taking a life? Read and answer the following.

Genesis 9:3 (ESV)

Genesis 9:6 (ESV)

- From these verses, what two times is taking a life permissible?
- Does taking a life pertain to war?

ENDURANCE

E1: If taking a life is wrong according to **Exodus 20:13 (ESV)**, what are your thoughts on the following:

- Homicide
- Suicide
- Abortion
- Euthanasia

E2: Read and answer the following.

Matthew 5:21–22 (ESV)

- From these scriptures, what can you glean about murder?
- From these scriptures, how does anger and insults work into your theology?
- When you see the words “you fool” what comes to your mind?

E3: There is a proper biblical response to anger. Read and answer the following.

Ephesians 4:26 (ESV)

- From this verse, what speaks to you?
- Moses, David, and Paul were murderers and God used them. What has been your greatest sin? Ask God to forgive and use you.