

05-30-01.wpd—God's Will Is Life

life, death, obedience, commandments, choice, posterity

Deu 30:15-20

Life comes from love, and to have life, we must obey the God of love.

### INTRODUCTION:

–Moses was about to die. He had led God's people out of bondage in Egypt, and now, after a 40-year detour in the wilderness, they were on the brink of entering the promised land of Canaan. He gave them a final exhortation in Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (read it). **HOM.idea.**

–All creation, and all of life in creation, comes out of the overflowing love relationship between the Three Persons of the Triune Godhead.

*Life*, especially, and our *human life*, in particular, has Love as its origin and ongoing support— "in him we live and move and have our being," says Paul in Acts 17:28. God is Love, and **God's will is life (Title)**. That can have two meanings, and together they make up the theme of this sermon....

#### **I. God's Will (His Plan or Purpose, His Desire) Is Life.**

- A. This is a theological fact clearly seen in the results of His creation. Creation teams with life, and because God is Love, He cares about the life of His creatures and provides for their preservation— Psalms 104:24-30 (NIV), How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number— living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.
- B. But *humans* are a special part of creation, and we have a special kind of life, because we were made in God's image and likeness.
  1. God made us in *His image and likeness* to physically represent Him to all creation and, as His representatives, to manage it.
  2. But our very bodies, as *male and females*, represent God in an even more special way: that Triune Love within the Unity of the Godhead, that Love that brings forth Life, is **imaged** specifically in the *one-flesh* union of marital love between a man and woman from which union comes new life! [This is Pope John Paul II's basic

thesis in his "Theology of the Body" which is first complete biblical theology of its kind ever put together in the history of the church. *I'm ecstatic about it.*]

3. In spite of its sinful misuse outside of marriage, physical sexual union was intended to demonstrate to us and to all creation that the loving marital union of male and female persons, reflecting the *loving spiritual union* of the Persons within the Godhead, brings forth new life. God is Love, and from Love comes life.

**TRANS:** The opposite of life is death, and if life comes from love, then death comes from sin. The deception of Satan that originally led the human race into sin and death is the same deception that keeps us alienated from God, alienated from each other, and alienated from our male and female bodies which were intended to broadcast in creation a glorious image of the Trinitarian God. I said there was two meanings in the phrase, "God's will is life." It means that the planned purpose of the God of love is life. But, it can also mean that God's will, His expressed will, leads to life. **Life comes from love, and to have life, we must obey the God of love.** So....

#### **II. God's Will (His Principles or Precepts, His Word) Is Life**

- A. God brought us forth into life with the breath of His mouth, and He causes us to live by feeding "on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deut 8:3). If we do not eat from it, we die.
- B. Moses pointed the Israelites toward life and away from death:
  1. If they would obey the God of love, Who had communicated His will to them (especially in the Ten Commandments), they would have life. (*Canaan would be a land of flourishing prosperity*, but it was not the place itself that was the blessing... a life of blessing would come only through their ongoing relationship with God.)
  2. BUT, if they would **not obey the God of love**, they would experience death [Pope John Paul II, in his TOB, sees in society today a "culture of death" because we have broken away from the God Whose very nature as Love brings forth life. This is evident in the way our world says "no" to life through abortion, war, and many dehumanizing practices.]
  3. Death originally entered our world and continues to overshadow human lifestyles that ignore a relationship with the God of love and life. (We invite a "culture of death" whenever we reject the precepts and principles laid down for us in the *Word of God*.)

- C. Death is a by-product of *listening to* and *following* the lies of a deceiver, but Jesus said (John 10:10,NASB), "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**."
1. Our *faith connection to the God of Love*, through *listening to* His Word and *obeying* His will, gives us not only "*abundant life*" in Christ but transforms our minds with an attitude that sees all of our earthly journey in terms of "*life*" and "*choosing life*."
  2. Those who *choose life*:
    - a. will *hate war* and *never willingly choose* to wage it.
    - b. will *see abortion as a choice of death* that must be opposed.
    - c. will *call for severe sanctions against* any government that allows *human lives to be sold into slavery and prostitution*.

### CONCLUSION:

–We as individuals, and as a nation, are responsible to make a choice (We cannot choose *not to choose*, because, in "a culture of death," we have chosen *death*, when we chosen not to oppose it).

–Moses told the people, "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life..."

–*Choose life. Life comes from love, and to have life, we must obey the God of love.*

### **Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NIV)**

15See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

16For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

18I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

20and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.