

Protecting the Vulnerable

Psalm 82:1-4

Scripture in numerous places shows God's concern for those who are vulnerable, including the widow, the sojourner, the oppressed, the fatherless, the poor, and victims of violent crime. Sanctity of Life Sunday falls in January each calendar year, and this year we are taking the opportunity once again to remember our calling as God's people in protecting the vulnerable.

Protecting the vulnerable: various stories from Christians and churches

Our passage: Psalm 82:1-4

- 1 God has taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of the gods he holds judgment:
- 2 "How long will you judge unjustly
and show partiality to the wicked? Selah
- 3 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

Protecting the vulnerable: the most controversial example

What can I/we do?

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. How do Genesis 9:6 and James 3:9 shape our understanding of the sanctity of human life?
 - James 3:9 specifically: What do you owe your enemies, because they are made in the likeness of God?
2. Read Proverbs 31:8-9. These are words that a king learned from his mother.
 - You might not be an earthly king, but in our democratic and capitalist society you still have a lot of freedom and power. How do these verses apply to you *practically*?
 - Discuss and pray about specific applications.