

# 17

## Protecting the Lives of Others

Chorus:

Love it was that made us  
And it was love that saved us  
Love was God's plan, when He made man  
Whose divine nature is Love.  
Born of God's love we must love Him  
That's why He made us to love Him.  
But only when we love all men  
Can we partake of God's love.  
But only when we love all men  
Can we partake of God's love.

Love is a wonderful thing  
Joy in our hearts it will bring,  
Where there's true love there is God,  
And where there's God there is Love.

Christ said: Love must be a sign  
By which men will know you are mine,  
A new commandment I give,  
Each other love as I did.

Sing the above hymn meditatively and reflect the meaning of it.

### Respecting Human Life

Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no

regard. So Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel for his part brought of the firstlings of his flock, their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.” And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him.

(Genesis 4:2-8)

The offering of Abel was pleasing to God. As a result of that, it was accepted by God. If our offerings are to be pleasing to God, we should offer the best. For an example, we should offer the best time to God by praying, i.e. as soon as we get up daily.

Cain was jealous of Abel, because Cain’s offering was not accepted. Though jealousy is a small thing, it led him to the point of killing of his own brother, Abel.

Jealousy is a Capital sin. It is considered as a Capital sin because it may lead a person to commit a mortal sin. Therefore, we should get rid of even Capital sins. It is obvious that jealousy led to the point of revenge in the case of Cain and Abel story.

If one takes revenge, it deprives him of respecting others. Therefore, we should shun away from revenge. Even Lord Jesus taught that we have to love all without taking revenge.

If we live according to the hymn, found at the beginning of the lesson, we can respect the lives of others.

## Abortion



Picture 17.1: A child in mother's womb



Picture 17.2 - A child at its birth

Look at the pictures attentively. Having kept a child in her womb for ten months, a mother gives birth to a child. Therefore, you have to be grateful to your mother and father. They have been looking after you since your conception to this moment.

Life begins not at birth but at the conception. The following Holy Bible passages show that the life belong to God from the moment of conception:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
(Jeremiah 1:5)

My frame was not hidden from you, when I  
was being made in secret,  
(Psalms 139:15)

If the life in mother's womb belongs to God, we have no right to kill even a child in a mother's womb. It is morally wrong. The sin, committed by Cain, is also done by the one who aborts. In abortion, the child in mother's womb is more innocent and helpless than Abel. It is a murder of a person who cannot protect himself. About this, thus says the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

Abortion is gravely contrary to the moral  
law:  
(CCC 2271)

## **Do Not Murder**

The Holy Church teaches that we should not only abort but also should not kill anybody.

Scripture specifies the prohibition contained in the fifth commandment: "Do not slay the innocent and the righteous. "The deliberate murder of an innocent person is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human being, to the golden rule, and to the holiness of the Creator. The law forbidding it is universally valid: it obliges each and everyone, always and everywhere.

(CCC 2261)

From the words, said to Cain, it is clear that not only the innocent, but also the offenders cannot be killed:

Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

(Genesis 4:15)

Lord Jesus recalled the Fifth Commandment at the Sermon on the Mount:

You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, “You shall not murder”; and “whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the fire of hell.

(Matthew 5:21-22)

Lord Jesus instructs that we should live amicably with our neighbour. Thus, it is clear that we ought to protect the lives of others.

Anger, vengeance, revenge, etc. are against fraternal love. Lord Jesus taught that we should not take revenge: “if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.”

As children of God, our behaviour should be great. As children of divine Father, we must love our neighbours. Fraternal love is one of the characteristic of Christian life. Thereby, the lives of others are protected. Since all are created in the image and likeness of God, all of us are children of God.

### Activity



1. Write three things that you can do to protect the lives of others.
2. Explain how abortion is a sin



### For Life

Since every life is a creation of God, let us commit ourselves to protect the lives of others.