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| [**Made in God’s Image: Part Four**](http://www.ppl.org/index.php/ministry-equipping/worship-resources/sermons/401-made-in-gods-image-part-four) | [PDF](http://www.ppl.org/index.php/ministry-equipping/worship-resources/sermons/401-made-in-gods-image-part-four?format=pdf) | [Print](http://www.ppl.org/index.php/ministry-equipping/worship-resources/sermons/401-made-in-gods-image-part-four?tmpl=component&print=1&page=) | [E-mail](http://www.ppl.org/index.php/component/mailto/?tmpl=component&link=03236a8336bb7afbef8be21cf2f04eec3f0edb4e) |

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| Written by The Rev. Dr. Mark D Atkinson |
| ***October-twins optWhat does Scripture teach regarding the nature of human life and the unborn? How ought the church to demonstrate compassion to a women in a crisis pregnancy and to her unborn child? Fourth in a series of six Scriptural Themes that indicate why we are pro-life.***  **D. God requires us to protect and care for the needy and the helpless**  Proverbs 24:11-13; Psalm 10:17; Psalm 41:1; Matthew 18:10  *Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him.*Psalm 41:1  Compassion is a mark of God's people. As Christians, we can be proud of the work of the church in the Pro-life movement. There are more Crisis Pregnancy Centers – places where women can go to find support as they adjust to an unexpected pregnancy – in America today than there are abortion clinics. The abortion industry is a multi-million dollar a year business. Planned Parenthood received from the federal government $542 million dollars last year. Abortion is big business in America. Yet Crisis Pregnancy centers offer their services to their clients for free. The centers are run by volunteers and exist on donations. They reflect compassion.  In the Old Testament, the standard for evaluating the character of the nation of Israel was how they cared for the widows, the orphaned, and the alien/sojourner. Why those three social groups? We exist in our world within a matrix, a social web of relationships and community. And in life, some relationships are more important than others. These three categories are singled out because these folk are missing key elements of these social networks and so are more vulnerable to the difficulties and tragedies of life. For orphans, the loss is obvious: whose heart does not go out to a child without parents? In the ancient world, and in much of the modern world, a woman is particularly dependent either upon her father or her husband for support. A woman lacking the support of a man was in particular need of protection and assistance. An alien was a traveler, someone far from home. An alien is vulnerable, because he lacks the resources of friends, family or community to help if tragedy or illness or injustice strike. The overall message is that God judges a nation upon how that nation treats the vulnerable and weak living within its borders.  Next, in Part 5, scriptural teaching regarding the value of human life and our responsibility to protect it applies in every case.  *This is the fourth article in a six-part series taken from a sermon preached by The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Atkinson, at Fairview Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Glenmoore, PA on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 20, 2013.* |