

*God's Response to the Oppressed, and Ours*  
*Psalm 10:1-4 & 12-18*

On this National Sanctity of Life Day, I want us to think personally and deeply about the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ and to consider the broader issues of God's challenge in His word to us to be like Him—an \_\_\_\_\_ for the weak, the helpless, the afflicted, the fatherless, and the oppressed.

Verses 1-11 of Psalm 10 stand as an extended question that so many people have: Why does it seem that protection for the helpless and justice against those who take advantage of and abuse the innocent is often so \_\_\_\_\_ in coming? Scripture doesn't ignore this question of why the innocent suffer, but it is never fully \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible mostly encourages us to face inequities in justice with a firm \_\_\_\_\_ in the love and sovereignty of God.

I can't explain the cruelty of our \_\_\_\_\_, humanity's propensity toward inhumanity to others, or the celebration on the part of some of lives taken in the womb. I can't tell you why \_\_\_\_\_ suffer. But I can say with the assurance of God's word that, despite all of that, God loves His \_\_\_\_\_ still and He loves \_\_\_\_\_, and the most productive thing you can do is \_\_\_\_\_ His characteristic love and love Him too and \_\_\_\_\_ upon Him.

The New Testament challenges us to \_\_\_\_\_ God's characteristic love and concern for the afflicted and the oppressed. A famous parable of Jesus teaches that He so \_\_\_\_\_ with the weak and oppressed that, when we minister to them, we minister to Him. James taught that the kind of religious action that God \_\_\_\_\_ is "to look after orphans and widows in their distress."

I'm grateful to be pastor of a church that has taken our Lord's challenge to care for the vulnerable and needy seriously. In 1996 we began a \_\_\_\_\_ care ministry. Today a dedicated and faithful group of men and women gather each Thursday and some Saturdays to go and serve Christ by serving the \_\_\_\_\_. We fill barrels each 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday for the \_\_\_\_\_. May it never be said of us that we \_\_\_\_\_ much, but we are \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_.