



CHAPTER 5 VERSES 1-13

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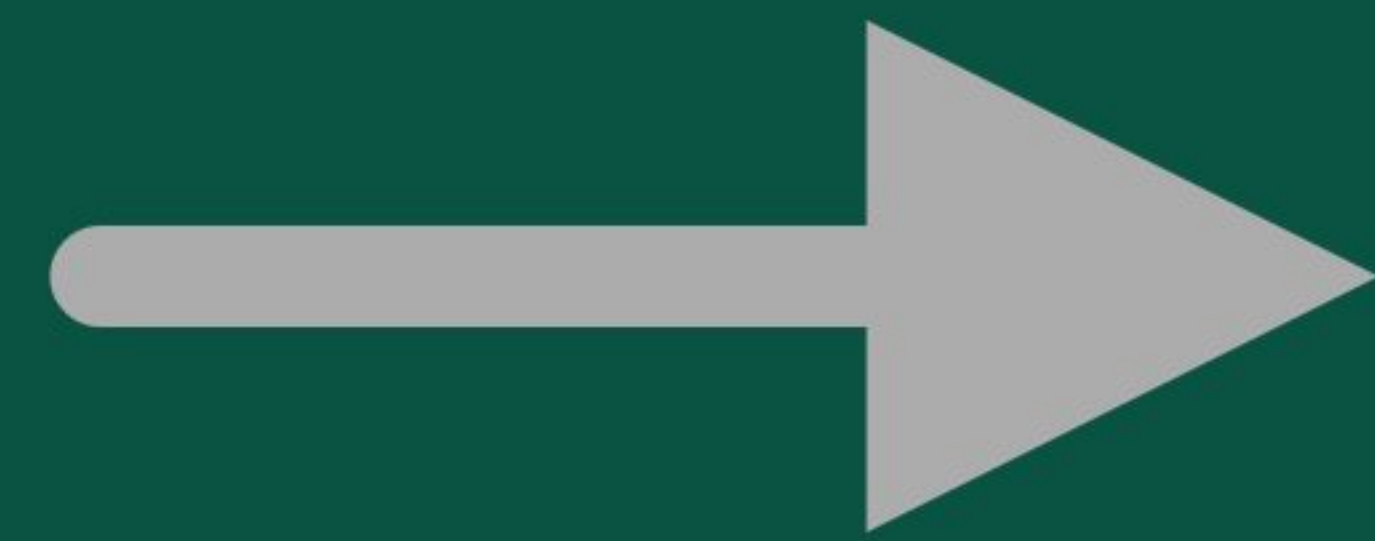
FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION

Sanctity

The property of deserving dignity and respect through one's relation to God.



"Sanctity of Life Sunday"



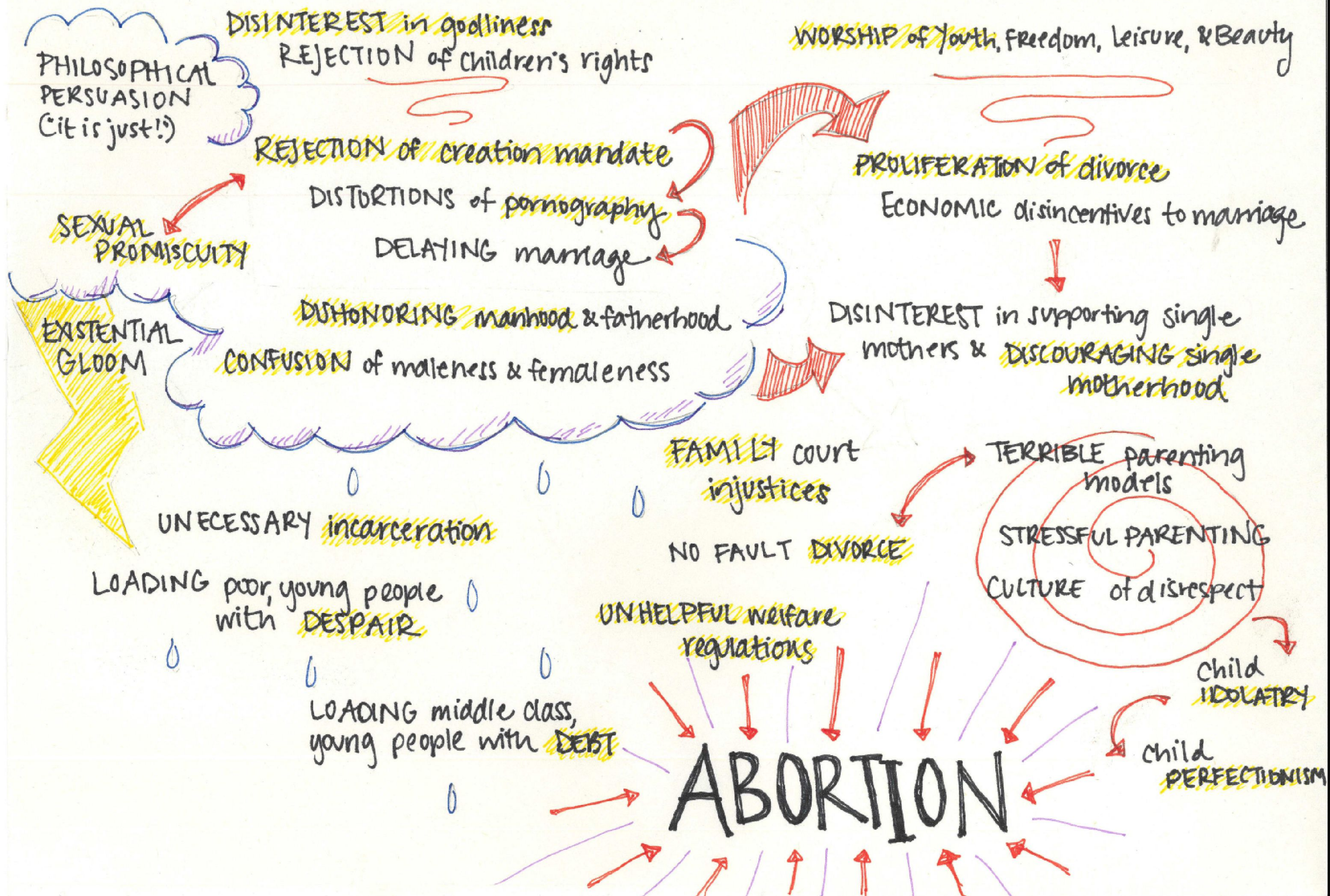
Sanctity demands a single woven fabric of justice.



**Sanctity is DEEPLY interwoven.
There is no 'one thing' in justice.**

This is one of the reasons people are constantly talking past each other in political and social arguments.





Sanctity is WIDE
It points to many things at once

Racial unity



Environmental
stewardship

Sanctity



Economic
vulnerability [Ⓝ]

Totalitarian
persecution



Sanctity is WIDE

It points to many things at once

Racial unity



Environmental stewardship

Sanctity



Economic vulnerability



Totalitarian persecution



**The neglect of
economic injustice
miscarries
spiritual renewal**



Key Assumption:

There is a relationship between the **spiritual wealth of salvation** and the **financial wealth** in our physical lives.



Relation of spiritual and corporeal wealth

Promise to Israel
Acts 2-6
Romans 15:26-27
Philemon 1:17-20

Jesus' teaching
Galatians 2:9-10
2 Corinthians 8

**Neglected injustice
will miscarry
spiritual restoration**



2 problems with neglected injustice

1. It exasperates the vulnerable
2. It divides the brotherhood

Problem 1 with neglected injustice: **It exasperates the vulnerable**

"I can take suffering in the fight of life. What I can't take is it coming from the very people that are supposed to be in this with me."



Neh. 5:1-5 (Exasperation)

“Now the men **and their wives** raised a great outcry against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous; **in order for us to eat and stay alive**, we must get grain.” Others were saying, “We are **mortgaging our fields**, our vineyards and our homes to get grain during the famine.” Still others were saying, “We have had to **borrow money to pay the king's tax** on our fields and vineyards.”



Problem 2 with neglected injustice:
It divides the brotherhood

"You can have more than me.
But when it means I'm a slave,
we aren't brothers."



...Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others."



**This threatened
the entire project.**

(for everyone)





FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION

2. Face neglected injustice; don't spiritualize it.

What were the *priests*
doing during all this? (N)

How do you face injustice? Nehemiah Style

1. Feel something vs. 6
2. Think carefully vs. 7
3. Speak the truth vs. 7
4. Make a moral and spiritual case vs. 8
5. Don't over defend the oppressed vs. 10-11
6. Invite perpetrator into justice vs. 10-11
7. Be an example for the perpetrator vs. 10, 15
8. Charge spiritual leaders vs. 12
9. Call to the Fear of the Lord vs. 6

Application Principles

Spiritual Leadership

- 1. Don't be a know it all.** Think hard and carefully after you start to feel.
- 2. Have a track record of sacrificial integrity**
- 3. Don't expect other spiritual leaders to do this, or encourage you.**



Application Principles

Economic Justice

1. **Fear to Lord**—what would he think of your arrangements?

2. **"We are brothers"**—how poor would you let someone in your family be?



Application Principles

Economic Justice

3. Are you destitute?

4. Is it usury?





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