***Respect Life!***

There are many ways of showing respect for life. There are people who would say that each of the following statements must be upheld if a person really respects life. Maybe that is true—and maybe not. Mark 1 if you agree with the following, 2 if you disagree or 3 if you don’t know what your position is.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. The arms race is an unspeakable crime against humanity; all steps must be

taken to stop it.

\_\_\_\_\_2. There should be stricter laws to ban the possession of all firearms.

\_\_\_\_\_3. Regardless of the circumstance, no one should ever kill another human being.

\_\_\_\_\_4. Killing animals for sport is clearly wrong. (Killing animals for food or clothing

is another issue.)

\_\_\_\_\_5. The most serious moral crime of the last twenty years is abortion.

\_\_\_\_\_6. Recreational drug use is wrong because it endangers the mental, physical, and

emotional health of a creature of God.

\_\_\_\_\_7. Doctors should use all ordinary and reasonable means to keep people alive,

regardless of their age or mental condition.

\_\_\_\_\_8. Capital punishment is wrong because it is revengeful and plays at being God.

\_\_\_\_\_9. Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) should be banned because the only objective is to hurt your

opponent.

\_\_\_\_\_10. Since life is God’s gift, people should not smoke cigarettes or chew tobacco.

\_\_\_\_\_11. The use of torture should not be viewed as a war crime as it can help save lives through

providing valuable information.

* Share your responses with other members of your group. Justify your choices. Did anyone choose 1 for all the items?
* Discuss each item to see what the statement is trying to get at. Then rewrite it in such a way that 75 percent of your group can agree with it.

Research: Jesus respected life. The following texts show how Jesus acted toward others or present his teaching on how we should act toward others. In small groups look up these texts and then draft a statement about how we should relate to others.

**Matthew: 5:38-48 7:1-5 25:31-40**

**Luke: 15:11-32 23:32 23:39-43**

# John: 1:40-42 5:1-15 9:36-37

Michael Pennock, Choosing, (Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN 46556, 1991 [www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com) ), p.112. Used with permission. See new book by Michael Pennock: Your Life In Christ.”