

Dignity of Humanity and the Unborn

Dignity of Humanity

References: Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2; Acts 17:24-28; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Imago Dei (ee MAH go Day) is a Latin phrase that means “in the image of God.” This phrase captures the truth of Genesis 1:26-27:

“Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So, God created mankind in His Own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

Humanity is unlike anything else in all of creation. Every human life is sacred and set apart for God’s unique purpose. This means all people have inherent dignity and value, not based on their capacities to do anything, but because God gives them value as a person created in His image, regardless of sex, age, ability, race, economic status, or any other way we tend to categorize ourselves.

Therefore, we believe that all human beings are created in God’s image and have dignity and value unique in all creation. God assigns dignity and value at original creation; therefore, it is a truth for all time. God further demonstrated His love for humanity by sending Jesus to live a perfect life, die a sacrificial death, and resurrect to new life to make it possible for humanity to have a restored relationship with Him. (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Dignity and Value of the Unborn

References: Psalm 139:13-16; Psalm 22:10; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:39-45; Luke 2:12-16; Luke 18:15-17; Exodus 21:22-25; Proverbs 24:11

In Psalm 139:13-16 we read,

“For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.”

Psalm 139, along with the other passages listed above, tells us that there is a connection with God Almighty while we’re being “woven.” As God is “knitting us together in our mother’s womb,” we have an intimate relationship with Him before we even take our first breath.

In the New Testament the same Greek word, “brefos”, is used to identify a fetus in the womb, a newborn baby, an infant and a little child. (See Luke 1:39-45, Luke 2:12-16, and Luke 18:15-17.) God in Scripture is making no distinction between an unborn child and a little child. They equally have a body and soul; therefore, they have dignity and value ascribed by God. Since God makes no distinction, neither should we.

Therefore, we believe that the dignity and value God ascribes to humanity extends to the unborn at the moment of conception. We believe that when a new life begins, a unique, distinct person is created. Medical science has shown the fetus has unique DNA from his/her mother. Issues of viability should not define whether a fetus and/or a person is a human being. Our definition of who is human must flow from what God says.

Abortion is taking a human life and denies a person from living out their full potential as a bearer of God’s image. Since we love what God loves, we are convinced that we must cherish and advocate for the unborn. (Proverbs 24:11)

Advocacy for the Unborn, Children and Women

References: Proverbs 24:11; Romans 12:9-18; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:12, 15; 3:15-16

We believe that followers of Christ should be advocates for all people, including the unborn, in such a way that shows the love, grace, forgiveness and compassion of Christ and supports the dignity of human life. We should also show this same attitude to those who have had an abortion and those that disagree with our views on this topic.

Grace Covenant Church supports and encourages generosity toward life care pregnancy centers in our community that believe in the dignity of the unborn and compassionately walk alongside of women in challenging circumstances. These centers also graciously minister to women through post-abortion support groups. Other Christian organizations support and provide shelter for women coming out of abusive situations. Still others aid in the adoption and foster care process. We encourage believers both to seek to serve with these organizations and to give generously.

Conclusion

As followers of Christ, we are to accept what God says is true even if it puts us into conflict with our culture or society. Biblical Truth must be the lens we use to look at cultural issues.

We, as leaders of Grace Covenant Church, believe that the fundamental issue that needs to be defined is when a fetus becomes a human. Once that is defined then the other issues flow out of it. As soon as an unborn child becomes a human then they have a right to exist, they have a purpose before God, and they are imparted all the dignity and value God ascribes to every other human being without distinction. We believe that humanity starts at conception.

We believe God has ascribed to humanity a unique place in creation and that He bestows dignity and value to all humanity without distinction. This was affirmed, not just at creation, but also in Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf. We believe that life begins at conception and the dignity and value God ascribes extends to the unborn.