

Emmanuel Church Position Statement on the Value of Human Life

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All human life is precious. Life is a gift from God for us to respect and protect through all its stages, from conception to natural death (Psalm 139).

Every person is created by God, in his image, and loved by him. Each person's life has inherent worth and dignity (Gen. 1:26-27; John 3:16). Human dignity does not depend on our ability or circumstances; it flows from our creation in the image of God. We must treat people as bearers of God's image, not as objects for our gratification. Our lives are not our own; they belong to God (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Our belief compels us as followers of Jesus to support the protection and promotion of life, to oppose practices that destroy or devalue human life, and to uphold the dignity of every person.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 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. 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 139:13-16)

*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. (Genesis 1:26-27)*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)