



Introduction

This is a position statement regarding the beliefs of Heights Worship Center International Ministries (HWCIM) in Hacienda Heights, California, regarding the issue of the sanctity of human life and our practices based upon the necessary application of our faith to life and ministry.

HWCIM bases its understanding of the nature of human beings on the Bible, which reveals that God created the universe, the world, and all living things (Genesis 1:1,11,21,25). Humans are the highest form of God's creative activity, and He is intentional in both their creation and destiny.

“ ‘Let us make man in our image’... So God created man in his own image,... male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:26,27).

“The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7).

By making human beings in His own image, God set them above all other forms of life on earth. The term “image of God” signifies that, like their Creator, men and women are personal and spiritual beings, rational and relational. It implies that humans are intended for eternal fellowship with their Creator and requires both sexes for full expression. Though marred when the first human pair fell into sin (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12), the image of God is still intrinsic to human nature (Genesis 9:6), insuring that men and women are capable of response to their Maker. Creation in the divine image is not only an expression of the incalculable value God places upon human life, it also signifies that God has sovereign power over life. He is both giver and sustainer of life; He alone has the power to determine its beginning and ending.

The nobility of human beings is seen in the divine mandate:

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground” (Genesis 1:28).

Superior to all other life forms, humans are to assume the role of responsible custodians of the earth.

Every human life, from conception through death, is therefore to be valued, respected, nurtured, and protected. Every human life is to be lived in obedience to God and His Word. The Bible describes a moral order to which all persons are responsible. At the end of life, all persons will stand before God to give account for their actions.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Therefore, human beings are responsible to bring the light of God's Word to decisions that bear on the sanctity of life.

To read more on the Biblical stance and therefore the basis of our policy, including perspective on contraception, abortion, in vitro fertilization, reproductive cloning, euthanasia, click the following links:

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Position-Papers/Abortion-Sanctity-of-Human-Life>

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Position-Papers/Suicide-Assisted-Suicide-Official-AG-Position-Paper>