

Every. Single. Life.

FCF Statement on the Value of Every Life, from Before Birth to Eternity

Our beliefs concerning the value of and right to life are derived from the authority of the inspired and complete Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. All Scripture is God-breathed and beautifully sufficient for our daily walk with him. While challenged by modern science, social mores, and political opinions, God's truth is changeless and timeless. We affirm God's inerrant truth and dedicate ourselves to value and care for what he values deeply: Every. Single. Life.

Every. Single. Life includes the newborn and the not-yet-born from conception forward, the near-born and the foreign-born, the abled and disabled, the sick and the aged, the mentally confused and the substance abusers, the motherless and the foster child, the homeless and the helpless, those chronically rejecting help and those hard to help, persons of every distinct and blended color, young and old, males and females, rich and poor, majority and minority worlds, arrogant and destitute, sinners and those claiming to be sinless, and those living in every country, both near and far.

The foundations¹ of the intrinsic value of life are seen

- in creation, where God designed every human being in his image;
- in continuity of life from conception until natural death and eternity and
- in God's covenantal relationship with all human creation.

Creation

The bedrock value of human life is the Triune God saying, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). Scripture slams us to a stop with that beginning: *God made us like himself*. He did this for no other living thing he created. Then, the point is made even more potent with clarity and repetition. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

Finally, the creation narrative reaches its peak, "And God blessed them" (Gen 1:28). The Triune God who created everything from nothing in our massive universe chose to make human beings like himself capable of co-creating and having power and authority. Then, he blessed both male and female equally, giving us the ultimate stamp of value. Can we grasp this reality?

We know that we messed it all up royally in the garden. But that does not mean what God made perfect in the beginning lost its worth. Just the opposite. He loved what he made so much that he protected us from eternal dysfunction and death, sending us out of the garden to make a way for redemption.

Summary: As human beings, we are God's creation, bearing and reflecting his image. We believe that God creates life at conception and that each life is of significance and value to him and to society at every stage. If we fail to value and to truly love those whom God has created and blessed, we fail to love God himself, and his truth is not in us (I John 3:16-18).

¹ This outline is drawn from the work of John Stott and John Wyatt in *Issues Facing Christians Today*: 4th Edition (pp.389-390) Zondervan. Kindle Edition

Continuity

We do not fully understand the way God sees our significance in life even though we do not yet entirely reflect his likeness. *We are becoming.* Psalm 139:16 articulates this process from the earliest “unformed substance” in an embryonic state of personhood, which starts when 23 chromosomes of a man unite with 23 chromosomes of a woman, miraculously forming a new embryonic life. The Psalmist continues describing different stages of human development into childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, times when we often harbor confusion or guilt (“Where shall I hide from your spirit?” Psalm 139:7). We are works in progress, reflecting the biblical concept of “already, but not yet”—our fully realized humanity, individually and collectively, is something that we eagerly anticipate and currently experience to some degree, but do not yet entirely enjoy, even as God’s covenant people.

One day, we will be complete through the redemptive power of Christ, standing with him fully transformed into his likeness (Ephesians 1: 7-10). This gives us great hope amid our frailty and weakness as we work through stages of life and struggle and grieve with sin, illness, inequality, identity, racism, disability, and death.

It will not always be this way.

We persevere, ever seeking understanding in our care and growth in Christ for ourselves and one another.

We strongly advocate to protect, value, strengthen and dignify Every. Single. Life at all stages, from conception through to the very last breath of life, which is God’s alone to give and take away.

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written every one of them.” Psalm 139: 14-16.

Summary: We are persons in a continuum with whom God is not yet finished. We are not asked to understand it all; we are asked to continue to trust in the One who does understand—the One who formed us and loves us. As we persevere and advocate, often without adequate answers for struggles we face, we acknowledge that our God knows every detail because he made us, named us, and sustains us through his covenant of grace.

Covenant

The Triune God of the universe not only makes each single life but also desires a personal relationship with each life. Psalm 139 makes the intimacy of this very clear. God sees us, forms us, has precious thoughts of us, accompanies us (Psalm 139:15-18). God is not only our Maker from conception, He is the one who *personally* loves us and leads us eternally (Psalm 139:24). A redemptive psalm, Psalm 139 beckons us to know our Creator (v. 16) to search our hearts and confess our sin (v.23,24), to trust in the Redeemer who relentlessly pursues us from the outset of our life, when we are made in secret (v 2-12), and finally, to rest in his eternal salvation (v 24).

Summary: The God of the universe who made us before we were born and keeps us until we die, seeks a personal relationship with us out of his love. All who respond to his call and trust in his salvation will live with him eternally. The love we have received compels us, in turn, to honor, protect, seek out, and show the same love to Every. Single. Life.