

What is the Only Basis for the Universal Standard of the Sanctity of Human Life?

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What is the basis for sanctity of human life, and is there a universal standard that applies to all peoples, tribes, and countries? To find the answers, we must begin with origins.

Origins: The late Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer (1912-1984) was immensely helpful to me in understanding the foundational presuppositions of theories of origins. They all begin with one of three types of origin:

1. Nothing – meaning no Creator and absolutely nothing, from which there is no rational basis for the origin, existence, value, or morality of anything.
2. Material – nearly every theory of origins begins with some type of impersonal material beginning, cannot explain the origin of the fixed patterns and processes upon which scientific research is based, and must make an irrational leap of faith from impersonal to personal to try to explain the existence of personal man.
3. Personal beginning with a Personal God – The Judeo-Christian worldview is based in knowledge revealed to man by the Creator and written in the Bible, and evident in all of creation. The Bible gives us the only explanation for the perfectly designed universe and for personal man, including the intrinsic value of every human, male and female, preborn and born, because we are created by the Living God in His image and likeness (Genesis 1).

Options: Is there a basis for knowing truth, absolutes, good or evil, or morals?

1. Material/evolutionary theories: In such theories, there is no basis for ultimate truth, absolutes, right or wrong, morality, valuing human life, or for understanding the existence of both good and evil propensities within mankind.
2. Humanism is man-centered and believes: “man is part of nature (and) emerged ... from natural evolutionary forces” [which means he has no intrinsic value]; “Ethics is autonomous and situational” [assumes there is no unchanging source or fixed reference point for truth, morality, or ethics]; “sexual behavior between consenting adults” is acceptable outside marriage, and people have “the right to ... abortion,” and “the right to die” including by euthanasia or suicide [meaning no basis for purity, morality, the sanctity of human life, or faithfulness, and denies accountability to man or God] (quotes from *Humanist Manifesto*).
3. Judeo-Christian. The Bible gives us understanding of: the nature of God as only good; Satan and human sin as the sources of evil; both the goodness of mankind [being created in the image of God], and our sinful nature [being in rebellion against God since the Fall] (Genesis 3); the only fixed basis for True Truth, absolutes, discerning good and evil, morality, sexual purity, covenant faithfulness in marriage, intrinsic value of human life, and accountability to God both in this life and at the Final Judgment. Read the Book and you’ll find answers to all of these.

One Standard: In nearly sixty years of life, study, and exposure to many religions and theories, there is only one basis I have ever found for the universal standard of the sanctity of human life. It is in the unchanging character of the Creator God and in His words revealed to mankind and recorded in the Bible. Read the selections below and see what a precious gift He has given to us! In these words you will find the truth of who you are and why your life has intrinsic worth and inestimable value, from the moment of conception to natural death, male or female, with or without disabilities, in this life and eternity.

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’ ... God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:26-27).

“Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things” (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

“Didst Thou not ... clothe me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews? Thou hast granted me life and lovingkindness; and Thy care has preserved my spirit” (Job 10:10-12).

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life” (Job 33:4).

“Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them” (Psalm 139:13-16).

“(T)he LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him” (Zechariah 12:1).

The Truth evident in these Scriptures is true for every person in every nation. These form part of the one Universal Standard for the sanctity of human life that applies to everyone.

On a personal level, when I arrived at L’Abri in Switzerland in the fall of 1982, where Dr. Schaeffer lived and worked, I had been so influenced by humanism, evolutionary theories, and other ideas, that I was on the verge of casting aside my faith in God and trust in the Bible. But there I was able see True Truth in the Bible, and the answers to questions about origins, identity, purpose, and eternal destiny. The Bible also reveals that forgiveness of our sins, redemption, and restoration with God are possible only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, as a free gift to any person who believes in Him.