

Human Dignity & the Sanctity of Life



What We Believe

The Shift Church, Albany, Oregon

March 17, 2023

The vision of the Shift Church is to “Love God, Love the Valley, and Love the Nations.” This includes affirming a biblical understanding of human dignity and the sanctity of life. We believe that an authentically Christian view for life should begin at conception, provide love and care through childhood, and advocate for and protect even through death.

We believe that humanity was set apart by God to bear His image (Imago Dei). This image is found not only in our appearance or our reasoning. Our hearts, minds, and souls were created to reflect His glory. We exist to glorify God by sharing the love of God through the story of the person and work of Jesus, as well as caring for the physical, emotional, and mental needs of others.

“Human life — from the very moment it begins to its very last breath — is the pinnacle of God’s creative imagination and power.” – Marshall Segal

We believe that all human life has dignity.

That doesn’t just mean that every person can contribute something. It means that all human life has innate value in the eyes of God. A uniquely Christian response to this truth is first a tangible care, advocacy, and protection of all people to the best of our ability. Secondly, and ultimately, our belief on human dignity and the sanctity of life finds its greatest purpose. We want to protect life in all seasons because we want people to hear of and follow Jesus.

Since we were created to have a close, intimate, personal relationship to the creator. The truly Christian view of life is most gloriously celebrated in and through sharing the redemptive story of Jesus. In Christ Jesus we find our greatest fulfillment as humans! Worshipping and communing with God.

Jesus’ sinless life, sacrificial death, and resurrection give any person the ability to experience the thing God created us for—to share in His love. It is through this love that we find our greatest joy, peace, and purpose.

We believe all human life has value.

The topic of abortion is and has been a divisive topic in our country for a long time. We are pro-life because Jesus said not only that he loved little children, but that we actually can learn from them. A Christian should be pro-life for all of life (Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 10:13-15).