"You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD." Leviticus 19:32

The Bible is also very clear on how we are to treat the elderly.

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old." Proverbs 23:22

The elderly should not be looked upon as a burden but should be looked upon as a blessing. There is a great wisdom to be gained from the elderly and a great blessing to be gained from caring for and respecting the elderly.

What about the handicapped?

There are many ways a person can be handicapped and each will bring along with it its own challenges but they also bring great reward. God loves the handicapped just as much as he loves the people who are normal.

"He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12-14

What about the unborn?

To God there is no difference between an unborn baby, a born baby, a child, or a teenager. The same word is used in the Bible for all of them. The Bible does teach that God was with us before we were ever born.

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;" Psalm 139:13-14

The Sanctity

# of All Human Life

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Human life is very special.

What makes human life so special? Human life has value, worth, and dignity because of where we came from. We originated from a loving God, who instilled value in us by creating us in His image.

"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27

The life God gives us is special because life is patterned after God. Life has value because God loves us.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

God made our life valuable in two ways: the first was in making us in His image and the second was by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

It wasn't nails that held Jesus to the cross, it was Love

What is human worth?

According to the Washington Ethical Society "An ethical culture starts with the assumption that every human being counts. Each person is to be treated as a unique and important member of the human family. This respect for human worth is based on our intrinsic human nature rather than on anything a person does. Attributing worth to human beings is accepting on faith and acting as if each person has within himself or herself the possibility for kindness, fairness, joy, and the capacity to create ethical relationships. Given this capacity for goodness each person deserves to be treated with dignity."
Source: http://www.ethicalsociety.org/article.php?id=24

Over time people have tried to put a value on human life. After the attacks of 9-11 Washington attorney Kenneth Feinberg had to assign a value to the lives that were lost that day. The law required that he give more money to the stockbroker, the bond trader and the banker than to the waiter, the policeman, the fireman and the soldier at the Pentagon. Our system of justice has always been based upon this idea — that compensation for death should be directly related to the financial circumstances of each victim. However after meeting with the families of the police and fireman the heros of 9-11 he began to change his mind. "Trained in the law, I had always accepted that no two lives were worth the same in financial terms. But now I found the law in conflict with my growing belief in the equality of all life."
Source: http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=90760725

It is human nature to try and put a dollar value on human life however since human life is created by God it is priceless. It is this value that gives our life worth no matter our situation, location, or age.

Understanding where our value as humans comes from is very important to appreciating the value of those who may "seem" less useful or important than others. In our society, it is normal to value "things" based on what others think or on what these "things" can do. This makes the idea of inherent value a shift in thinking for many. But the truth is, human life is valuable, because it is a creation of God.

What about the elderly?

In our recent history there has been a trend to devalue the elderly. In years past it was up to the family to take care of the aging family members caring for them at home until they would leave this world to meet their maker. By doing this the younger generation spent valuable time with the older generation learning from their years of wisdom. However in today's fast paced society more and more people have either left the elderly family members to fend for themselves or have placed them in nursing homes where they are forgotten for the most part. While taking care of the elderly family, members does take a lot of work and commitment from the family the Bible is very clear on the worth and dignity of the elderly. *(continued on back)*