



Canadian Association of  
Lutheran Congregations

**CALC**

# Statement on the Sanctity of Life

CALC is a Community of Independent congregations living together.  
The Word of God has created us,  
The Word of God sustains us,  
The Word of God redeems us.  
As believers we are servants of one another.  
As believers we share the burdens of one another, as Jesus did on the cross.  
With one voice we proclaim Jesus to the world

## THE SANCTITY OF LIFE, ABORTION, AND EUTHANASIA.

I - The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations hold firmly to the clear Biblical truths concerning:

- A. **The Sanctity of life.** Human life from conception to natural death is created in the image of God and is always sacred.
- B. **Abortion.** The living but unborn are persons and alive in the sight of God from the time of conception. An induced abortion is a sin before God as well as against all humanity.
- C. **Euthanasia.** The living but physically, mentally, emotionally, or otherwise disabled, are persons and alive in the sight of God. To induce the death of a person through euthanasia is a sin before God as well as against all humanity.

II - Where Does the Bible Support These Positions?

We believe, teach, and confess that human life from conception to natural death is created in the image of God and is always sacred. (Gen. 1:26 ,27; 9:5-6; Ps. 8).<sup>1</sup> The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception (Job 10:9-11; Ps. 51:5; Ps. 139:13-17; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:41-44; Gal. 1:15).<sup>2</sup> God has created us (Job 31:15; Isa. 64:8),<sup>3</sup> and thus each one of us is accountable before God (Ps. 100:3; Rom. 12:1; 14:9; 1 Cor. 6:13).<sup>4</sup> If a child is deformed or retarded, we are to recognize that God has made that child for His own gracious purpose (Ex. 4:11; Isa. 45:9-11; Rom. 9:20-21).<sup>5</sup> Human beings of all ages are to allow their physical or mental deficiencies to glorify God (John 9:1-3; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Cor. 1:27).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> **Genesis 1:26-27:** Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. **Genesis 9:5-6:** And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. **Psalms 8:4-8:** What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.

<sup>2</sup> **Job 10:9-11:** Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews? **Psalms 51:5:** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. **Psalms 139:13-17:** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! **Jeremiah 1:5:** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." **Luke 1:41-44:** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. **Galatians 1:15:** 15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased.

<sup>3</sup> **Job 31:15:** Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers? **Isaiah 64:8:** Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

<sup>4</sup> **Psalms 100:3:** Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. **Romans 12:1:** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **Romans 14:9:** For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. **1 Corinthians 6:13:** You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

<sup>5</sup> **Exodus 4:11:** The Lord said to him, "Who gave human beings their mouths? Who makes them deaf or mute? Who gives them sight or makes them blind? Is it not I, the Lord? **Isaiah 45:9-11:** "Woe to those who quarrel with their Maker, those who are nothing but potsherd among the potsherd on the ground. Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?' Does your work say, 'The potter has no hands'? Woe to the one who says to a father, 'What have you begotten?' or to a mother, 'What have you brought to birth?' "This is what the Lord says—the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: Concerning things to come, do you question me about my children, or give me orders about the work of my hands? **Romans 9:20-21:** But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

<sup>6</sup> **John 9:1-3:** As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. **2 Corinthians 12:7-9:** or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my

Therefore we affirm, on the basis of the Scriptures, that life begins at conception. We understand that an induced abortion is a sin before God as well as against mankind. Abortion ends a unique human life for which God has a plan that would bring glory for Him, and benefit to fellow human beings (Ps. 139:1;7 ,13).<sup>7</sup> God has a purpose for each person (Rom. 8:28-29; 9:20-21).<sup>8</sup> Each child, regardless of physical or mental condition, is a gift from God and a precious soul (Gen. 1:28; Job 10:8-12; Ps. 127:3; Jer. 1:5).<sup>9</sup>

Each person stands under the full protection of God's own prohibition against murder. All murder is sin (Gen 4:9-11; 9:6; Ex.20:13; Num. 35:33; Acts7 ;19; 1 John 3:15; Rev.-22:15).<sup>10</sup> Only God has the right to say how human life should be taken (1 Sam. 2:6; Ezek. 18:4; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).<sup>11</sup> Everyone in authority over the life of another has been given authority by God (John 19:10-11).<sup>12</sup> Each leader, and each person in authority over the life of another, is responsible to God so that the power of the sword is used wisely (Rom. 13: 1-7).<sup>13</sup>

Although individuals in difficult situations may at times feel themselves unable to cope, we uphold that God knows and is able to take Care of every need of each of His unique creations (1 Cor.10:13; Prov.3:5-7; 2 Pet.1:2-4).<sup>14</sup>

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weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **1 Corinthians 1:27:** But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

<sup>7</sup> **Psalm 137:1,7,13.** You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.... Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? .... For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>8</sup> **Romans 8:28-29:** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. **Romans 9:20-21:**

But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

<sup>9</sup> **Genesis 1:28:** God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." **Job 10:8-12:** "Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me?"

Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews? You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit. **Psalm 127:3** Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. **Jeremiah 1:5:** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

<sup>10</sup> **Genesis 4:9-11:** Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" "I don't know," he replied. "Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. **Genesis 9:6:** "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. **Exodus 20:13:** "You shall not murder." **Numbers 35:33:** "Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it. **Acts 7:19:** He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our ancestors by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die. **1 John 3:15:** Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. Revelation 22:15: Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

<sup>11</sup> **1 Samuel 2:6:** "The Lord brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. **Ezekiel 18:4:** For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20:** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

<sup>12</sup> **John 19:10-11:** "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

<sup>13</sup> **Romans 13:1-7:** Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

<sup>14</sup> **1 Corinthians 10:13:** No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. **Proverbs 3:5-7:**

Human beings are not permitted to take a life before birth (Ex. 21:22-25; Amos 1:13; Matt. 18:10,14).<sup>15</sup> Children are not to be put to death for the sins of their fathers (Dt. 24:16).<sup>16</sup> Therefore; we believe on the basis of God's Word that a child conceived in rape or incest is not to be put to death because of their father's action. The father alone is responsible for his own sin.

We believe that a woman does not have control over the life of the child in her womb because all belong to the Lord and as such are to serve Him (Ezek. 18:4; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 2:16).<sup>17</sup>

The practice of abortion and euthanasia, their promotion, and their legal acceptance are destructive of the moral consciousness and character of the people of any nation. We deplore the legal permissiveness that denies protection to the weakest and most defenceless of the human family, the unborn. Many who are being considered for euthanasia are similarly weak and defenceless. We view this practice, promotion, and acceptance as an irresponsible and morally reprehensible neglect of God's gift of human life.

We believe that a sense of responsibility, founded on Christian morals as revealed in the Bible, is the best guide in sexual behaviour, and in the avoidance of unwanted pregnancies (1 Cor. 6:12-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-18).<sup>18</sup> We advocate the exercise of sexual and procreative acts only within the framework of marriage in accordance with the teaching of God's Word.

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*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. **2 Peter 1:2-4:** Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. <sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. <sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

<sup>15</sup> **Exodus 21:22-25:** *If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise. **Amos 1:13:** This is what the Lord says: "For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not relent. Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to extend his borders. **Matthew 19:10-14:** "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.*

<sup>16</sup> **Deuteronomy 24:16:** *Parents are not to be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their parents; each will die for their own sin.*

<sup>17</sup> **Ezekiel 18:4:** *For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20:** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. **1 Peter 2:16:** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.*

<sup>18</sup> **1 Corinthians 6:12-20:** *"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. **2 Corinthians 6:14-18:** Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you." And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

God does not wish us to stand by, saving nothing and doing nothing when innocent life is threatened (Prov. 24:11-12; Jer. 7:5-6; Gen. 9:5-6).<sup>19</sup> Instead, we are to warn all to turn away from sin (James 5: 19-20).<sup>20</sup> We ignore this duty at our peril (Ezek. 3: 17-21).<sup>21</sup> Similarly, we dare not say that something evil is good (Isa. 5:20).<sup>22</sup>

However, we are also to love our neighbour (including father, mother, and child) as ourselves (Matt. 22:39),<sup>23</sup> and to show our love by deeds and not words alone (James 2: 15-17).<sup>24</sup> The same Lord who tells us to go and proclaim the truth from the rooftops. (Matt. 10:27)<sup>25</sup> also tells us that it is in our practical acts that we minister as if to Him (Matt. 25:31-46).<sup>26</sup> Thus it is equally the Church's duty to minister to its members, and the world. Such actions certainly include a Biblical and caring ministry to all those who have been involved in abortion and euthanasia.

#### A. In the light of Scripture:

1. We reject that it cannot be determined when life begins;
2. We reject that abortion and euthanasia are viable, and sometimes necessary procedures.

Rather, we affirm that:

- a. Abortion is not justified for the sake of someone seeking personal financial gain, or establishing a career; for social or economic reasons; for reasons of personal inconvenience or choice; nor in order to remove the consequences of sexual relations outside of marriage or as a means-of birth control. Neither is it justified simply because a parent does not want

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<sup>19</sup> **Proverbs 24:11-12:** *Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?* **Jeremiah 7:5-6:** *If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm.* **Genesis 9:5-6:** *And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.*

<sup>20</sup> **James 5:19-20:** *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*

<sup>21</sup> **Ezekiel 3:17-21:** *"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for[a] their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself. "Again, when a righteous person turns from their righteousness and does evil, and I put a stumbling block before them, they will die. Since you did not warn them, they will die for their sin. The righteous things that person did will not be remembered, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the righteous person not to sin and they do not sin, they will surely live because they took warning, and you will have saved yourself."*

<sup>22</sup> **Isaiah 5:20:** *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

<sup>23</sup> **Matthew 22:39:** *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

<sup>24</sup> **James 2:15-17:** *Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

<sup>25</sup> **Matthew 10:27:** *What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.*

<sup>26</sup> **Matthew 25: 31-46** *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

a child (especially one who is crippled or retarded, who is born as a result of incest or rape). The Bible sanctions none of these reasons.

- b. Euthanasia is not justified, for the sake of someone achieving personal financial gain; for social or economic reasons; for reasons of personal convenience or choice by the family or medical staff; or because of pain or suffering. Neither is it justified simply because one member of a family does not want another (especially one who has an apparently untreatable disease such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or AIDS). The Bible sanctions none of these reasons.
  - c. We acknowledge that there may be rare cases in which the mother's physical life is clearly and directly threatened and where all other possible alternatives to saving the lives of both mother and child have been exhausted. In this case, abortion may be a tragic option. Even here, however, abortion may not be the choice which a mother and family may make. Many mothers have given their lives so their children could live. Therapeutic abortions should only be undertaken by responsible and well qualified doctors, after serious consideration by all concerned (the mother, father, family doctor, and pastor), and being fully aware that it means we are taking the life of an unborn child. When, after prayerful consideration, a decision is made, we just ask for God's grace and mercy if we have erred. The love of Christ, the law of liberty....is the only law that can absolve us from this decision (Rom. 14:7-9; Luke 9:24; 12:22-23; 1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 1:21; 2:3-4).<sup>27</sup>
3. We reject that the act of taking a life through abortion and euthanasia is not a sin before God.

Rather we affirm that: All who are involved, whether directly or indirectly in such acts of taking a human life, are guilty of sin (Deut. 27:25; Jer. 22:17; Prov. 8:36, 28:13; Luke 17:2; Heb. 4:13).<sup>28</sup>

4. We reject that the act of taking a life through abortion or euthanasia is an unpardonable sin.

Rather we affirm that:

- a. All sins are forgivable, except the sin against the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31-32).<sup>29</sup> Forgiveness is available to all through conversion and repentance-, trusting in the mercy of God through Christ Jesus (1 John 1:7-9).<sup>30</sup>
- b. Christians are to forgive those who have committed sins of abortion or euthanasia upon their repentance (Luke 17:3).<sup>31</sup>

5. We reject that a woman has the right to choose whether to take the life of the child in her body.

6. We reject that the practices of induced abortion and euthanasia are matters of indifference to God.

7. We reject that human beings are not made in the image of God, and thus life is not sacred.

### III - What should Christians Do?

Based upon these Biblical teachings. we encourage our leaders and members in our congregations. as well as our nation and other nations of the world to:

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<sup>27</sup> **Romans 14:7-9:** For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. **Luke 9:24:** For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. **Luke 12:22-23:** Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. **1 Corinthians 10:24:** No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. **Philippians 1:21:** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **Philippians 2:3-4:** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>28</sup> **Deuteronomy 27:25:** "Cursed is anyone who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person." Then all the people shall say, "Amen!" **Jeremiah 22:17:** "But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion." **Proverbs 8:36:** But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death." **Proverbs 28:13:** Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. **Luke 17:2:** It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. **Hebrews 4:13:** Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

<sup>29</sup> **Matthew 12:31-32:** And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

<sup>30</sup> **1 John 1:7-9:** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

<sup>31</sup> **Luke 17:3:** So watch yourselves. If your brother or sister[a] sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.

- A. Pray for wisdom, guidance, understanding, and love for all-who work to end abortions; pray for the opening of the eyes of those who would facilitate, encourage, enable or participate in an abortion; and pray for all leaders in government and the judiciary, that they may act wisely regarding the sanctity of life;
- B. Support one another in efforts to act justly and lovingly towards both-the unborn and the born in these matters;
- C. Promote clear instruction of Christian morality in our homes, schools, and churches, showing the blessings and safeguards inherent in God's will for sexual chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage, and to demonstrate this morality in their own lives;
- D. Counsel publicly and privately (Prov. 31:8-9) against the sins of abortion and euthanasia and instruct the community of God that abortion and euthanasia is not in the realm of Christian-liberty, private choice, personal opinion or political preference;
- E. Speak and act as responsible Citizens in the civic and political arena -on behalf of the living but unborn of those who are facing euthanasia, to secure for these defenceless persons due protection under the law;
- F. Show love and compassion to those who have facilitated, encouraged, enabled or participated in an abortion or in euthanasia, and assure them of God's complete forgiveness to all who repent;
- G. Offer as an alternative to abortion supportive understanding, compassion and help to the expectant parent(s) and family, and to foster concern for unwanted babies, encouraging agencies and families to open their hearts and homes to these children in their need for life in a family.
- H. Offer as an alternative to euthanasia supportive understanding, compassion and help to those contemplating taking the life of a family member through euthanasia, and encouraging agencies and families to open their hearts and homes to these individuals in the remaining; days of their lives;
- I. Encourage attitudes and policies in congregations, schools, hospitals, social service agencies, and other institutions within their sphere of influence and work, to foster the view that abortion and euthanasia are not matters of personal choice;
- J. Nurture a deep reverence and gratitude for God's gracious gift of human life, and, become informed about all aspects of abortion and euthanasia, and its effects upon individuals, families and society;
- K. Recognize that civil law is a significant factor in shaping the judgment of citizens concerning that which is right and wrong. The current legal climate of total permissiveness regarding abortion teaches that human life has diminished significance or value;
- L. Urge pastors, counsellors and others dealing with the "other victim," the mother herself, as well as fathers and others responsible for and involved in the practice of abortion to be knowledgeable and sensitive about the profound guilt, remorse, and shame that accompanies abortion and be diligent in ministering the Gospel of forgiveness and new life through Christ Jesus to them;
- M. Urge pastors lovingly to counsel women with problem pregnancies to avail themselves of options in dealing with the child other than abortion; and that together we strive to provide loving care, guidance and means to facilitate such options for the mother;
- N. Urge Christians everywhere patiently to strive through prayer, proclamation of God's word regarding the sanctity of human life, and all Christian and legal means to effect the changes in law necessary to provide full protection to all unborn and born children as well as those who face murder through euthanasia.