



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Where does the Idea of Human Dignity Come From?

THE ORIGIN OF HUMAN DIGNITY

The idea of human dignity is central to the Christian ethic and is rooted in the fact that every person is created in the image of God. God has bestowed on humans an intrinsic value and inestimable worth based on his goodness and created order. Thus human dignity is not rooted in what we do but who we are as those made in God's image.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN DIGNITY

A belief in human dignity has profound implications for how we view God, ourselves, and others. It means that every person, regardless of their race, sex, intelligence, perceived worth, or social status, has inherent value and should be treated with the utmost respect. The Christian ethic calls us to care for the vulnerable and marginalized in our society including the preborn, the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. (BFM2000 - Article XV).

THE ROLE OF HUMAN DIGNITY IN PUBLIC POLICY

A belief in human dignity has distinct implications for public policy and the social order. It calls us to advocate for policies that promote the common good and uphold the dignity of every person. This includes policies that protect the sanctity of human life, promote human flourishing for all, champion the family, and support the most vulnerable members of our society.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROMOTE HUMAN DIGNITY

There are many ways that you can make a difference in promoting human dignity. Here are a few suggestions:

- *Treat every person with respect and dignity:* Whether in our homes, workplaces, or communities, we can show love and respect to those around us.
- *Advocate for pro-life policies:* Vote for legislation that upholds the value of human life at all stages, and write to your elected representatives, expressing your support for policies that protect the sanctity of life and promote the dignity of every person.
- *Support organizations that promote human dignity:* Consider volunteering or donating to organizations that support the most vulnerable members of our society such as the poor, the abused, the elderly, and the preborn.
- *Be a witness for Christ in your community:* Live out your faith in a way that reflects the love and grace of Jesus Christ, promoting human dignity and showing compassion to those in need.



Scan this QR code
to download
additional resources
on human dignity.