

B. A Declaration on the Sanctity of Human Life

1. Life begins in the mind of God and He alone has absolute dominion over all human life, and over the process by which it comes into being. The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of fertilization, that is, the union of an ovum and sperm. The respect and protection of ALL innocent human life is necessary for the establishment and maintenance of a moral civilization.
2. The church has the duty and the obligation to proclaim to all the earth the sanctity of human life, the dignity of human life, and respect for human life.
3. Human life begins at conception and ends with natural death.
4. The deliberate and direct destruction of innocent persons, preborn or born, through all forms of direct abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or any other means is considered to be unethical, immoral, evil and sinful. Nutrition and hydration are considered “ordinary care” not “medical care” and cannot be withheld.
5. Therefore, we affirm that no government has the right to alter the law of God.
 - a. Any legislation by any government that demeans or goes contrary to the law of God concerning the sanctity of life is immoral.
 - b. We affirm the teaching of Holy Scripture and the tradition of the church throughout the centuries that God is the giver of life and thus human life belongs to Him.
 - c. We affirm that this declaration on the sanctity of human life, which is rooted in the teaching of the church and the Holy Scriptures, is not in conflict with good and moral science.
6. Human life, beginning in the mind of God, is sacred from the moment of conception – the union of the human egg and sperm, referred to as fertilization. The ending of this life through abortion is considered by the church to be immoral and sinful, and is contrary to the Scriptures as well as the consistent teaching of the historic church.
7. The public support of, or participation in the intentional violation of the sanctity of human life by a member of the Charismatic Episcopal Church will result in an automatic referral to the Diocesan Bishop. This would especially include being employed by having or holding the ownership of an abortion facility, or running for a public office as a pro-abortion or pro-choice candidate, or working in any such campaign to promote the agenda of abortion. Refusal or failure to take part in a process of reconciliation and restoration may result in excommunication by the Bishop. This statement, though containing punitive elements, should never be used as a hindrance to any communicant seeking and receiving the mercy and forgiveness of Christ and His church through the ministry of repentance and reconciliation.

8. Scripture specifies the prohibition contained in the fifth commandment: "Do not slay the innocent and the righteous". The deliberate murder of an innocent person is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human being, to the golden rule, and to the holiness of the Creator. The law forbidding it is universally valid: it obliges each and every one, always and everywhere.
9. The purpose of defining and clarifying the deep commitment to the sanctity of human life must always be redemptive in order that mercy and truth would meet one another. (Psalm 85)