HUMAN DIGNITY - ALL LIVES ARE CONNECTED TO OTHER LIVES

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In short, human life is sacred and respect for human life should be at the center of all we do. In order to put the "life ethic" into words and practice, it helps to consider where it comes from, what it looks like and how can we incorporate it into our daily lives: The Life Ethic: Where Does It Come From? The Bible establishes that human life is sacred in Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (ESV). We help restore human dignity through our witness of caring for each other, especially in our times of dependence and need. The sanctity ethic reminds us that God is ultimately sovereign over the affairs of our lives, including our frailty and infirmity. Dignity is important because it allows individuals and groups to feel respected, valued and connected with others around them. Dignity and respect are considered basic human rights, and both help people feel a sense of worthiness and importance. Dignity involves a mutual effort among people to listen, understand opinions and values and include one another in conversations. Treating people with dignity is an important practice in daily life. However, it can be overlooked in certain situations, such as when providing healthcare to elderly and disabled patients as well as when performing medical treatments on people of different races, socioeconomic statuses and ethnic identities. The legal definition of Human Dignity is An individual or group's sense of self-respect and self-worth, physical and psychological integrity and empowerment. "In contrast, other human rights can be suspended in a state of emergency or limited in terms of law of general application." The United Nation's Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights, §10, refers to, but does not define human dignity: "No research or research applications concerning the human genome, in particular in the fields of biology, genetics and medicine, should prevail over respect for the human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity of individuals or, where applicable, of groups of people."