



Some people think
you can be human,
but not a person.

It's no joke!

They think everyone starts out a "non-person,"
as an embryo. And only become persons later,
maybe even after birth. Unless we're "defective."

Then we never become a person.

They also believe personhood can be lost as we age,
or if we're damaged through brain injury or disease.

It's just wrong!

Why does it matter?

Categorizing someone as a *non-person* has the effect of dehumanizing him or her. We've seen enough throughout history to know what that means. *Non-persons* have been valued the same as animals, or less. They've been found useful – as slaves or organ donors. They've been experimented on, sterilized, even sent to gas chambers.

"Person" means protected. "Non-person," not so much.

The term *non-person* was invented to help ethicists sort out difficult medical dilemmas. For instance, if hospital beds were scarce or technology too expensive, the situation would be helped if certain individuals – *non-persons* – became ineligible. Or if new drugs could be tested on them. After all, *real people* would then be able to live happy, productive lives!

What if we could "weed" out "defective" humans before birth (or before IVF implantation) to eliminate their parents' suffering . . . and their own? What if we could stop feeding *non-persons* and leave them to die? Why not abort *non-persons*, clone them, or harvest their cells and tissues? Especially if *real people* can be helped?

This line of thinking is a seductive trap. Chris-

tians have even fallen for it, using biblical language. They propose that some people have less of the image of God than others, or that some display it better than others. But is that possible? It begs the question: Which ones bear His image? And how can we tell?

Modern "dilemmas" fade away when we accept and apply principles from God's Word:

- All human beings are created in God's image¹
- Harming innocent, weak people is always wrong²

If anything could remove the image of God in a person it would be sin, right? But fallen, weak, and damaged as we are, God's Word says we all bear His image – even those in outright rebellion. We're still valuable in His eyes, He sent His Son to die for us, and we must treat each other with care.³

If "Am I my brother's keeper?" and "Who is my neighbor?" are the wrong questions, then so is "Which one bears God's image?"⁴

We grow callous to people because we're sinners, fallen short of God's glory.⁵ Jesus is the only perfect image of God.⁶ Those who belong to Christ grow in likeness to Him, reflecting His holiness and expressing His mercy to all.⁷

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 1) Genesis 1:27. 2) Exodus 20:13; Leviticus 19:14; Deuteronomy 27:19; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 6:16-17; Jeremiah 7:6; Matthew 18:10. 3) Gen. 9:6; Psalm 8; Mt. 22:37-39; Luke 6:31-36; Ephesians 4:32; James 3:9. 4) Gen. 4:9; Lk. 10:29. 5) Romans 3:23. 6) Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3. 7) Rom. 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; Lev. 19:2; Lk. 6:36. **PHOTO CREDIT:** Tiberius Images, www.tiberiusimages.com.

40 years of abortion on demand

2013 marks 40 years that an unborn baby in the U.S. can be aborted for any reason, at any stage of development. Over 54 million have been lost. We will not forget them.

And, Lord willing, we will not quit. We'll continue speaking up for them . . . for all who are threatened by the "non-person" label.

Our dedication to working with local churches here and abroad continues unwavering. Will you renew your commitment to the sanctity of human life? Now, more than ever, we need to pray and work together for the end of abortion.

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