



Life Matters Worldwide helps the Body of Christ articulate the biblical pro-life message in word & deed.

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a publication of

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

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This has been our mission statement since 1998. It's simple and to the point, but sometimes people get hung up on the word in the middle.

What does it mean to articulate?

According to Dictionary.com, the verb *articulate* means:

- to utter clearly and distinctly; pronounce with clarity
- to give clarity or distinction to
- to reveal or make distinct

God clearly articulated His message about humanity at the moment of our creation. He said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Genesis 1:27). He didn't utter those words about any other form of life. And with this declaration, it was so.

Christians accept other doctrinal mysteries on faith—*You are in Christ, God has chosen you, you have been saved, the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*—so it's not out of the ordinary that we would be expected to believe that all of mankind is made in God's image.

Being made in God's image means we can have a relationship with God, communicate with Him, steward the earth, and much more. But it's very important to remember that bearing God's image is

not dependent on a person's ability to perform any or all of those functions.

For instance, a human being at any age bears God's image despite the fact he may be unable to communicate. Similarly, a person has dignity and inestimable worth even when she does nothing but lie helplessly in bed. The most vile of sinners, existing in unrepentant opposition to God, also bear His image and have value and dignity. How do we know? Because God declared it.

Significant Bible passages speak of mankind as being made in the image of God even after Adam and Eve's fall:

- Genesis 5:1-3 describes the pattern of procreation: Adam was made "in the likeness of God." His descendants were begotten "in his own likeness, and after his image," which means all of his offspring have also been made in God's image.
- After the Flood, God protected fallen mankind from wanton violence by instituting the death penalty. The rationale God gave for killing killers was the very thing that makes human life special. He told Noah, "*Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man*" (Genesis 9:6).
- In James 3:8-12, God gave a similar reason for not using words as weapons: the people you want to curse have been made in the likeness of God.
- Psalm 8:3-8 describes fallen mankind as still possessing "glory and honour."

Christians are being conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:28). As we follow Him we proclaim the message about the sanctity of human life and the biblical pro-life ethic that flows from it.

A lot of people think the sanctity of human life is inconvenient, that it gets in the way of progress—embryonic stem cell research, three-parent embryos, and 'death with dignity.' As Richard Weikart reports in his book, *The Death of Humanity*, "The idea that Darwinism has demolished the Judeo-Christian sanctity-of-life ethic has become so widespread among scientists that many regard as unthinkable the claim that humans are made in the image of God."

Many scientists, educators, members of the media, and pop culture icons refute this message. It's very important for us to respond with clarity and distinction, as well as love.

In the Law, God taught us how to treat each other as fellow-imagebearers. In Jesus, He has shown us by example.

Aside from expressing biblical values clearly and accurately, we also articulate them in actions. When our convictions are "fleshed out," the world knows we actually believe them. It's not enough to say abortion and euthanasia are wrong, but we must also be there for people in difficult situations.

That's why pregnancy care centers exist, and why churches develop ministries such as Living in Faith Together. LIFT helps people at the end of life and those with chronic illnesses or disabilities. These pro-life ministries elevate the value of forgotten and marginalized people, serving with joy and bringing the hope of the Gospel.



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