

sinful; thus human embryos, from the moment of their conception, are potential human beings.

Psalm 139:13 -- "For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb." David confesses that what he became (a human being) was what God was causing him to become in his mother's womb.

3. Human beings, unlike all other creatures on earth, are made in the image of God. This image involves personal, moral, and spiritual likeness.

Genesis 1:27 -- "And God created man in His own image." Human beings, like God, are persons. As persons, they are capable of moral actions (i.e., morally right and wrong actions), and capable of spiritual relationship to God.

James 3:9 -- "With it (the tongue) we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the image of God." Even though human beings are fallen, they are still God's image bearers.

4. Because human beings are God's image bearers, human life is sacred in a way that all other forms of life on earth are not.

Genesis 9:6 -- "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man." Even though human beings who lived after the great flood of Noah's day were fallen and sinful, they were still bearers of God's sacred image, and thus their life was (and is) sacred. Therefore unlawful taking of human life is sin, and an assault on God Himself (through an assault on His image in human beings).

Matthew 6:26 -- "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Human beings are much more valuable than birds or any other animals, because they are God's image bearers.

5. Because human life is sacred, human beings are under a sacred obligation to preserve it, whether in themselves or in others.

Exodus 20:13 -- "You shall not murder!" The positive command implied by this prohibition is that "You shall preserve your neighbor's life."

As a matter of fact, all of the other commandments in the second section of the Ten Commandments that are stated negatively also have a positive implication, so that we can say that the seventh commandment implies that "You shall preserve your neighbor's purity"; the eighth commandment, that "You shall preserve your neighbor's possessions"; the ninth commandment, that "You shall preserve your neighbor's reputation"; and the tenth commandment, that "You shall recognize God's good gifts to