

# THE VALUE OF LIFE: CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS

Human life has tremendous value in Christianity, some go as far as to say that it is sacred or holy. *The Oxford English Dictionary* defines “sacred” in the following ways:

- ‘Connected with God or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving veneration.’
- ‘Regarded with great respect and reverence by a particular religion, group, or individual.’
- ‘Regarded as too valuable to be interfered with; sacrosanct.’

Inherent within the concept of the sanctity of life are the principles below:

- Life is God-given.
- All life deserves respect.
- Life should not be destroyed.
- Human life is particularly precious.
- God has a plan for every human life.

There are a number of parts of the Bible that relate to the sanctity of life. Both the Old and the New Testaments emphasise the importance and value of life.

Key gobbets from the Old Testament include...

In Genesis chapter 1, verse 27 it states: ‘So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.’

In Exodus chapter 20, verse 13, the Sixth Commandment states: ‘You shall not murder.’

In Psalm 139, verses 13-16 it states: ‘For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.’

Key gobbets from the New Testament include...

In Luke chapter 12, verses 6-7 it states: ‘Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.’

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians chapter 3, verses 16-17 it states: ‘Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.’

## Activities:

- Match each gobblet to a principle of the sanctity of life. Type or write out.
- Identify the key part of each gobblet you are going to memorise. Underline.