

## We are all members of the human family

Imagine for a moment being abused, persecuted or killed because of your ethnicity, beliefs, skin color, gender, age or because you are unwanted. The thought of such treatment is detestable and yet history is replete with acts of dehumanization and extermination for reasons external to who we are as human beings.

We all have an inherent desire and right to be valued simply for who we are as members of the human family. But in a world in which moral absolute truths are mocked and dismissed, those deemed weak, undesirable or different from us are at the mercy of those with control and power. Any individual or group not contributing or adhering to our personal worldview, values or self-interests is marginalized, hated, discriminated against or killed.

Today's headlines speak to the fact that our history of committing atrocities against one another not only continues but is legally sanctioned by governments. Whether it is the legal dismemberment of the unborn through the third trimester of pregnancy or euthanizing disabled children in Belgium, our world is quickly devolving into chaos as we reject God's truth and embrace our own truth. The act of depriving another human being the right to life, for whatever reason, must be rejected. If not, someone may decide your life is no longer worthy.

What is the solution to the violence in our world? Love. Authentic love means to will the good of another while expecting nothing in return. We receive no benefit when we love only those who love us. It is when we love despite hardship, inconvenience and suffering, that we truly experience the graces that flow from sacrificial love.

All human life must be respected and treated with dignity. We are in a battle between good and evil, life and death. If our lives don't reflect a respect for all human life, then we have surrendered to a culture of death.

Sheryl Schwager  
Executive Director  
Johnson County Right to Life

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