



GLC Weekly

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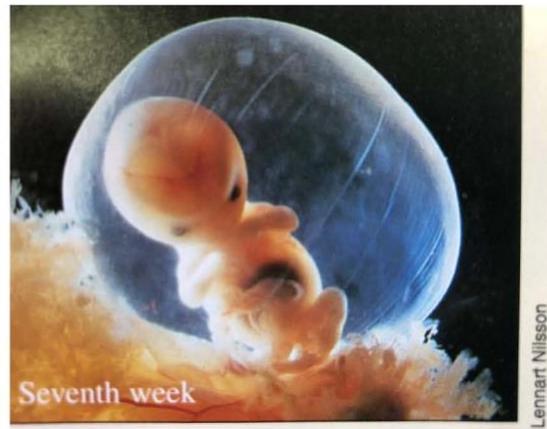
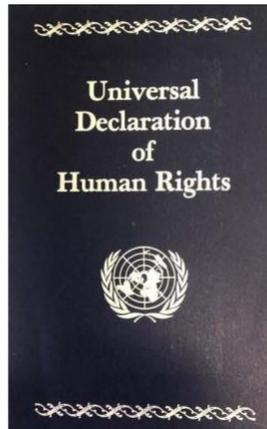
Foundations for Life #9:

Human Rights & the Right to Life

Thomas W. Jacobson, Global Life Campaign

When the American Colonies were settled in the 1600s and 1700s to secure religious and civil liberty for every member of their societies, this was a historical anomaly. When the Americans signed the 1776 Declaration of Independence, asserting their right before “the Supreme Judge of the world” to separate from Great Britain and form their own government to secure the Rights given to them by “their Creator,” this too was a historical anomaly. They declared the “self-evident” truth “that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty . . . That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

When God-given liberty and human rights were greatly violated again during two world wars that caused the death of 80 million people, nations came together to form the United Nations in 1945. One of the primary objectives was to “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of every person” (United Nations, *Charter*, Preamble). Three years were invested in creating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), approved by the General Assembly on 10 December 1948. Article 3 declares: “everyone has the right to life.”



It is time to recover again the self-evident and universal truths about human rights, the right to life, and duty of government to protect (and not to authorize the taking of) innocent human life. Here are **Seven Universal Principles for Discerning and Protecting Inherent Human Rights**. The same are essential aspects of the foundations of good civil government.

1. Establish the foundation for law and the rule of law in “the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God” (Declaration of Independence). The “the Laws of Nature” are those imputed into creation

by the Creator, and the Laws “of Nature’s God” are those written in the Bible. Both reveal that (1) God created man in a state of nature, pre-existing any form of civil government; and (2) that the universal Law of God is the only fixed and unchanging basis for forming laws and establishing the rule of law.

2. Hold firmly to “self-evident” truths (Declaration of Independence), consistent with conscience. The concept of self-evident truths is found in the Bible: “[T]hat which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.” This includes His “Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness” (Romans 1:19; 2:15). God Himself makes certain truths evident to all mankind.

3. Affirm that “all Men are created equal” (Declaration of Independence) because all are created by God, regardless of circumstances of conception, parents, color, nationality, or disability. Although God made a distinction in the roles of male and female, they have equal worth before Him.

4. Declare that “unalienable Rights” are those “endowed by their Creator” (Declaration of Independence). This is the only basis for classifying any human rights as “endowed,” “inherent,” or “inalienable.” True unalienable human rights are given by God, not by man or government, and conform to the righteous and just Law of God.

5. Declare “Life, Liberty,” and other God-given rights as “unalienable Rights” (Declaration of Independence). The first unalienable right is the right to life, because life is a gift from the Creator, and without life, all other human rights are meaningless. The second right is liberty, because God created mankind to be free but accountable directly to Him. Any human power exercised over him, as an adult, should only be by his consent. The third right listed in the Declaration of Independence is “the Pursuit of Happiness,” which means full freedom to pursue a right and happy (blessed) relationship with God and people. Sexual rights and responsibilities are included among these, but only within the covenant of marriage.

Thomas Jefferson, principal author of the Declaration of Independence, said in 1774: “The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time: the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them” (The Virginia Declaration of Rights). It is impossible to preserve liberty if respect for the right to life is lost.

6. Establish a government that will “secure these Rights.” “(T)o secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men” (Declaration of Independence). Thus, a foremost duty of civil government is to protect its people by securing the rights given to them by God.

7. Ensure government “by the Consent of the Governed” (Declaration of Independence). The authority to establish a government to protect the lives, liberties, property, land, and nation of a people comes from God through the consent of the people. In 1785, James Madison, father of the Constitution of the United States, said: “If ‘all men are by nature equally free and independent,’ all men are to be considered as entering into Society on equal conditions; as relinquishing no more, and therefore retaining no less, one than another, of their natural rights” (Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments).

Pray that these self-evident and universal truths would be restored in the hearts and minds of Christians, leaders, and citizens in every nation, resulting in the restoration of true human rights, protection of the sacred gift of human life, good governments, and an end to abortion.

For the LORD, the sacred gift of life, and remembrance of the babies,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.*