

Imago Dei
The Image of God and Cultural Engagement

Genesis 1:26,27

“We live in a moral wasteland where human beings are desperately seeking answers to hard questions about life and sexuality. But there is hope. In the wasteland we can cultivate a garden. We can discover a reality-based morality that expresses a positive, life-affirming view of the human person – one that is more inspiring, more appealing, and more liberating than the secular worldview.” Nancy Pearcey

“The Image of God in mankind is a wholistic view of body and person.”

The concept of truth has been divided

Francis Shaeffer
THEOLOGY, MORALITY
Private, Subjective, Relativistic

SCIENCE
Public, Objective, Valid for Everyone

The Fact/Value Split

VALUES
Private, Subjective, Relativistic

FACTS
Public, Objective, Valid for Everyone

“The key to understanding all the controversial issues of our day is that the concept of the human being has likewise been fragmented into an upper and lower story.” Pearcey

Personhood Theory

PERSON
Has Moral and Legal Standing

BODY
An Expendable Biological Organism

Abortion

"I was calling the life inside me a baby because I wanted it, Yet if I hadn't, I would think of it just as a group of cells that it was OK to kill...That seemed irrational to me. Maybe even immoral."

Sawyer had run up against the wall of reality – and reality didn't fit her ideology. She began researching the subject, and produced a documentary. Her conclusion:

"In the end, I have to agree that life begins at conception. So yes, abortion is ending that life...But perhaps the fact of life isn't what is important. It's whether that life has grown enough...to start becoming a person."

"In the two-story worldview, the body is seen as irrelevant – or even as a constraint to be overcome, a limitation to be liberated from. By contrast, a biblical worldview leads to a positive view of the body. It says that the biological correspondence between male and female is part of the original creation. Sexual differentiation is part of what God pronounced "very good" – morally good – which means it provides a reference point for morality. There is purpose in the physical structures of our bodies that we are called to respect. A teleological morality creates harmony between biological identity and gender identity." Nancy Pearcey

II. Engage Our World

Let's engage our culture rather than constantly being outraged by it.

- 1) We must stand for TRUTH
- 2) We must stand for the Imago Dei in all of mankind (unborn)
- 3) We must be compassionate
- 4) We must be respectful
- 5) We must preach the gospel