

# That They May Have Life



© 2024 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
1333 S. Kirkwood Road | St. Louis, MO 63122  
888-THE LCMS (843-5267) • [lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

---

First published by the President's Commission on the Sanctity of Life (no publication date).

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# ***Contents***

---

**HUMAN LIFE :: 4**

**A SOCIETY OF STRANGERS :: 6**

**THE FIRST CIRCLE OF RESPONSIBILITY:  
THE CHURCH :: 8**

**THE SECOND CIRCLE OF RESPONSIBILITY:  
CHRISTIAN LAITY :: 12**

**THE THIRD CIRCLE OF RESPONSIBILITY:  
AMERICAN SOCIETY :: 15**

**NO ONE IS A STRANGER :: 16**



*“No one is worthless whom  
God has created and for  
whom Christ died.”*

## *Human life*

Human life is not an achievement. It is an endowment. It has measureless value because every individual, at every stage of development and every state of consciousness, is known and loved by God. This is the source of human dignity and the basis for human equality. It must therefore be asserted without exception or qualification: No one is worthless whom God has created and for whom Christ died.

Uncompromising respect for human life is fundamental and the foundational principle for human community that enables individuals to live together in security and harmony. This principle calls upon every individual and society to rightly define the human community. Will all be counted as neighbors, or will some be regarded and treated as strangers and cast beyond protection? In a democracy, men and women of every walk and station of life have a role and responsibility in answering these great and significant questions.



## *A Society of Strangers*

American society, in its response to these questions, is steadily becoming a society of strangers, obsessed with personal rights and severing the ties of duty, compassion and love to the weak and unwanted.

American culture has come to favor those who can stridently assert their autonomy and choice in a struggle for political power. As a result, America has become an inhospitable, even dangerous, place for those too weak to compete effectively in this contest of rights — the young, the elderly, the dying, the handicapped.

American society has adopted a distorted definition of freedom. Freedom focused only on the self and its rights. Freedom from the bonds of community. Freedom from duties of parents to children. Freedom from the obligations of generation to generation. Freedom from the responsibility to sacrifice for others. Freedom even from a sense of empathy.