



## What is Personhood?

So then, the question arises: "What is personhood?" Well, at Georgia Right to Life we always start Biblically to understand our origins – where better to learn about yourself than from the God who created you? To answer that question, we examine something called "The Personhood Principle." This principle teaches that personhood was endowed to us at the moment of Creation in something called the "Imago Dei," which is Latin for, "the image of God." This term probably sounds familiar from what you've read and remember about God's 6-day creation of the Earth. Let's take a closer look at that section of Genesis:

*"Then God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image, according to Our likeness** . . . And God created man in **His own image**, in the **image of God** He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:26-27)*

Here we see one paramount distinguishing feature between us and all other creation: when God created us, He created us in HIS image and likeness. Not that we are God, by any stretch of the imagination, but that He left His stamp or His fingerprint on it. Think of it like an artist who signs their name into their painting: that's how God made us in context of the Earth.

From this point onward through Scripture, we see that the importance of humanity and the status of personhood that God granted us remains intact, though distorted by sin. This is how we understand our personhood: our Creator made us in His image and likeness, He created laws to protect us, and He even sent His only son, Jesus the Christ, to die in our place in order to make reconciliation with human persons, the creation made in His image.

This principle is seen from the first book of Scripture on through the last, and even affirmed in Pseudepigraphal and Apocryphal books (books left out of or removed from Biblical Canon), and in the Didache [did-uh-kay] (a compilation of teachings of Jesus' Apostles).

Personhood was boldly proclaimed by our Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **unalienable** Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These rights have been tested and tried throughout our nation's history – slavery, women's rights, Native American rights – and have always held true and have even been further solidified by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Personhood is also the solution to our growing, tragic abortion epidemic. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, who was in the majority of Justices who ruled in favor of abortion during the

landmark Roe v. Wade decision, said in his section of the ruling that, “(if the) suggestion of personhood [of the preborn] is established, the [abortion rights] case, of course, collapses, for the fetus’ right to life is then guaranteed specifically by the [14<sup>th</sup>] Amendment.”

Isn't that amazing? The very same ruling that gave us abortion on demand through all 9 months of pregnancy in America also gave us the solution to protecting all human life in the womb and undoing the terrible damage done by the ruling. That is why Georgia Right to Life takes the position of personhood as a foundation for our activities protecting innocent life: because it is found in Scripture, it is vetted through our nation's history, and it would be upheld by the United States Supreme Court.