



The Five Values of Human Flourishing

CoHO firmly believes human beings exist in all levels of society possessing the potential to contribute individually and corporately towards the flourishing of humanity. The Christian tradition provides a rich history of men and women who have endeavored to create opportunities for persons to live fully as image bearers of God.

CoHO defines human flourishing as the human experience in which men and women are free to properly steward land, lodging, learning, labor, and faith-individually and corporately-for the benefit of the individual self and neighbor.

LAND

The story of Genesis communicates a narrative in which the sovereign God creates the earth in order to sustain living beings. At the conclusion of God's creative acts, humanity-man and woman-comes into existence. Humanity has a divine identity in which the whole of the human race is a reflection of God; the imago Dei. In addition to this identity, purpose is conferred upon humanity in regards to the land on which they will exist. Humanity in the presence of God is to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28). Men and women have the privilege to develop relationship with God, other human beings, and the land on which they exist. The use of land offers human beings the opportunity to cultivate personal lives and the lives of others fulfilling God's original purposes. Therefore, land functions as a critical means to support the flourishing of human beings individually and corporately.

LODGING

The opportunity to possess sustainable lodging is an essential element for the realization of the hope of human flourishing. The idea is nowhere found in society, nor in the pages of Holy Scripture men and women will flourish without some form of suitable lodging. The metanarrative of physical and spiritual homelessness manifested in the provision of a physical and spiritual dwelling compels persons to demonstrate this same love in a tangible way. A home has been provided, therefore, one should have the opportunity to create a home to meet his or her needs as the means and opportunity present themselves. Therefore, the provision of land combined with lodging for persons is an act in accordance with God's will and a cooperation with the natural design of society.



LEARNING

Education offers a limitless number of possibilities to support human flourishing. Education in a variety of forms supports social and economic mobility, an increase in decision making opportunities, and improved well-being. Holistic education for children and adults provides the necessary knowledge to engage in new opportunities. Therefore, the goal of education involves the improvement of the individual and by extension the society in which he or she participates.

LABOR

Labor represents a means to provide resources for persons and contribute to societal transformation. Human beings possess a varying degree of capabilities to include creativity, acquisition, and innovation, implementing ideas, addressing a need, and produce an income. The activity of labor represents a means to support human flourishing, contribute to family sustainability, and societal transformation. The creation of labor opportunities in combination with learning provides tangible evidences of human creativity, provision, sustainability, and changes which should benefit individuals and communities.

LOYALTY TO FAITH

Human beings will achieve the fullest expression of human flourishing when land, lodging, learning, and labor are understood to serve as means to magnify the transcendent and loving God. The transcendent and loving God is understood to be the Supreme Personality who loves human beings through Jesus Christ and through the agency of the Holy Spirit influences persons to engage in a holistic relationship with himself and other human beings. It is understood human beings across various cultures have differing views of God and their relationship to a divine presence. These views are limited expressions of the Supreme Person God and do not diminish a person's capacity to express themselves as image bearers of God. CoHO values all persons regardless of faith expressions and welcomes all persons for the purpose of understanding God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

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