

The Image of God in the Canberra Declaration

The Canberra Declaration is **an urgent call to protect Christian values in Australia**. The Canberra Declaration is also a **growing community** that prays and acts on current issues. It focuses on three areas that are foundational to our Australian way of life -

- **Religious Freedom,**
- **Marriage and Family** and
- **the Sanctity of Human Life**

It states, **"The values that we have cherished and sought to strengthen are in large measure founded on the Judeo-Christian belief system. The many freedoms, advantages, opportunities, values and liberties which characterise the West owe much to the growth of Christianity with its inherent belief in the dignity of the human person as created in the image of God and the code of behaviour that flows from this belief."**

Why These Leaflets?

These 21 leaflets try to show how the Biblical doctrine of humanity created in the image of God is at the foundation of Western civilisation and Australian society. Each leaflet celebrates the truth that every man, woman and child is made in the image of God with inherent value and dignity.

Australian theologian Charles R. Ringma writes, *"The Christian faith is moved by a set of values. All people are made in the image of God and therefore should be given respect, justice and care. We are called to love, even the stranger and the enemy ... Humans made in the image of God are invited to shape their world. They are called to bring order out of chaos and to draw out the earth's potential. They are to build families, institutions and societies."*

In the stark relativism of our postmodern world, the Canberra Declaration declares that **"when Christian values are respected and allowed freedom of expression, our society is richer and healthier."**

SERIES ONE

'Image of God' Leaflets

- 1 Jesus – The Image of God
- 2 Humanity
- 3 The Unborn
- 4 Atheistic Evolution
- 5 Community Violence
- 6 Sport
- 7 Western Civilisation
- 8 Genocide
- 9 Pornography
- 10 Missions
- 11 The Love of Money
- 12 Culture
- 13 Bullying
- 14 Human Trafficking
- 15 Eternity
- 16 Spiritual Deadness
- 17 Major World Religions
- 18 Bkie Gangs
- 19 UN Declaration of Human Rights
- 20 Dementia
- 21 Whales

You can download these leaflets for free from **The Canberra Declaration website:**

www.canberradeclaration.org.au/leaflets

Dedicated to Sophie Scholl



We dedicate this series of 21 leaflets to the memory of a woman who was martyred at the age of 21. On 22 February 1943, Sophie Scholl was marched into a courtroom in Nazi Germany. After a short trial she was found

guilty and immediately beheaded. The charge was high treason. Why? She dared to oppose Hitler's murderous rampage against the Jews and his disregard for freedom and human life. How did she do this? It was her writing and distributing of leaflets.

Sophie said, **"Somebody after all had to make a start. What we wrote and said is also believed by many others. They just didn't dare express themselves as we did"**. Sophie and her friends had started the [White Rose](#), a non-violent intellectual [resistance group](#). Knowing that they risked death if caught, they published six leaflets opposing Hitler's Third Reich and his crimes against humanity.

Sophie Scholl had a strong faith in Jesus Christ. She declared, **"I will cling to the rope God has thrown me in Jesus Christ, even when my numb hands can no longer feel it"**. This was recorded in detail in the award-winning film called [Sophie Scholl: The Final Days](#). Biographies record her firm belief in God and the inherent dignity of every human being.

We are inspired by her last words, **"How can we expect righteousness to prevail when there is hardly anyone willing to give himself individually to a righteous cause. Such a fine sunny day, and I have to**

go, but what does death, my death matter, if through us, thousands of people are awakened and stirred to action?"

Sophie Scholl was only 21 years of age when she made her courageous stand for faith, freedom and life. She was willing to lay down her life for others!



Sophie's words proved to be prophetic. The first five leaflets had limited circulation in Germany because possession of them meant death or imprisonment. The [sixth White Rose leaflet](#), however, was smuggled out of Germany, reprinted in many millions and dropped from the air all over Germany by the Allies. This no doubt helped to hasten the end of World War II and thus save many lives.

Father God, we marvel and give thanks that You created human beings, male and female, in Your own image. Because of this every man, woman and child has inherent dignity and value and is precious to You. Use these leaflets to awaken us to the significance of this truth. Thank You for the example of Sophie Scholl that Inspires us to rise up and make a stand for Christian values in our nation. Stir us to action for such a time as this. In the Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

About 'Image of God' Leaflets

In the Bible we read that God "*created man in His own image*" ([Genesis 1:27](#)). Many maintain that all human history revolves around this truth. The Judeo-Christian belief in the unique dignity of human beings is at the very foundation of Western civilisation.

The 2010 Canberra Declaration therefore states:

"We believe that all human life, being made in the image of God, has intrinsic and equal value from conception to life's natural end."

'Image of God' leaflets relate the doctrine of humanity as created in the image of God to various issues we face in Australia today.

The 21 leaflets in SERIES ONE are dedicated to Sophie Scholl who was martyred at the age of 21 in World War II for writing and distributing leaflets.

You can download other 'Image of God' leaflets at [The Canberra Declaration website](#).

Please:

READ & SIGN

**The Canberra Declaration
to Protect**

- **Religious Freedom**
- **Marriage and Family and**
- **Human Life**
in Australia

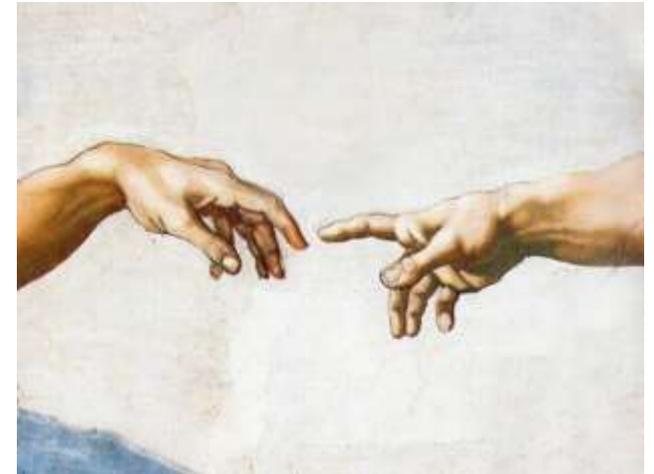
Website: www.canberradeclaration.org.au

Email: info@canberradeclaration.org.au

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**SERIES ONE
by**

The Canberra Declaration