

#### 4 Truths About Abortion

##### ➤ Ps 51. (Intro)

In case you're unaware, this is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. A nationally designated remembrance, announced first by Ronald Reagan in 1984 . . .  
And then reiterated at least by every *Republican* President since.  
Marking of course, that infamous Supreme Court decision in 1973, legalizing abortion.  
And I want to talk about it because the battle still rages and the travesty remains.

Most of you I imagine, firmly believe abortion is wrong. Others of you think it's just fine.  
Some of you are *active* in your opposition to abortion, others of you don't care.  
And some of you have *had* an abortion. Or may even be considering one.

➤ If that's you, if you're pregnant and considering an abortion, will you press pause and take this into account? We love you, we care about you, and we will help you.  
That means we won't condemn you for *being* pregnant. Even if the circumstances that led to it were *sinful*. There's forgiveness and grace. Mercy and compassion.  
We will come alongside you, meet with you, connect you with others, and even help you financially if needed. We will. And our help won't end with your baby's birth.

➤ On the other hand, for those of you who have *had* an abortion, this message is not intended to hurt you or condemn you.  
I'm well aware of the guilt and shame and remorse you already carry and feel.  
*My* desire, is to *alleviate* your pain. *Eliminate* your shame. Through the forgiveness and healing found in Jesus. And the gracious acceptance found in our church.

If you haven't experienced that, *please* get in touch with us. You can call the church office, email us, or talk to one of the women who will be down front after the service.  
We're here to help you and love you, not hurt you or condemn you.

➤ That in mind, I want to start with the *issue* – abortion is a terrible blight on our culture. Because no matter how you look at it, it ends a human life. To the tune of about 2500 every day in the United States.  
And that doesn't include the number of abortions via the "Morning After Pill."  
Just via "traditional" means, 60 million babies have been legally killed in our country through an abortion.

So I want to give you 4 truths about it, in hopes of awakening or reawakening you to the issues. Here's the first:

##### **1. It's wrong because life and personhood begin at conception (Ps 51:5)**

30 years ago, I might have said, "*Life* begins at conception." B/c at *that* time, the abortion debate was centered on when life *began*. But that's no longer the case.  
With the advent of new technology to actually *see* inside the womb, and lay your eyes on the baby, hardly *anybody* argues that it's just a blob of tissue anymore.

The widespread consensus from doctors, scientists, ethicists – and anyone else who has an ounce of *honesty* about them – is that life begins at conception.  
That's when a new *human being* is formed. It's no longer debated. At least by those who are rational.

➤ What *is* debated, is *personhood*.

"Okay," abortion advocates say, "maybe human life *does* begin at conception."  
"But *personhood* doesn't. That pint-sized cluster of cells doesn't possess the qualities *we* do. So though it might be a human being, it's not a person."

But what they raise is a false dichotomy. Because there's no difference between a person and a human. A human being is a person, and a person is a human being.  
The only time that's disputed, is when a husband is in the doghouse.

Not only that, but personhood doesn't depend on size or ability. If that were the case, I'd be more of a person than most of you, because of my height.  
And Albert Einstein more a person than all of us put together.

➤ But more important than the *ethical* reasoning or *scientific* support, is the biblical record. And the Bible indicates that personhood begins at conception.  
Ps 51:5 – *Behold* [David says], *I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.* Me.

In other words, not only did David consider himself a sinful person from the time of his *birth*, saying *I was brought forth in iniquity* . . .  
But he was a sinful person from conception – *in sin did my mother conceive me.*  
Referring not to his *mother's* sin, but *his* sin. She conceived me with a sin nature.  
And the pronoun *me*, implies that he was a *person* at the time. The same person he was when he wrote it years later. "It's me, David. Was then, is now."

So David was a *person*, at conception.  
And being made in the *same* likeness, so are we.

All of which means that abortion is *wrong* in God's eyes, because both life and *personhood* begin at conception.

##### **2. It's unthinkable because the unborn are precious to God (Ps 139:13-16)**

The unborn, or pre-born, referring to babies who are not yet born. They're precious. Just like it says in **Ps 72:13-14**.  
[13] *He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. [14] From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.*  
Precious is their *life*. Certainly including weak and needy babies who suffer the oppression and violence of an abortion.

God saves them. He *redeems their life* it says. Which is one of the most significant truths in this entire issue. Especially for the baby that's been aborted.  
They're safe in the arms of Jesus.

Beyond that, abortion is unthinkable. Because the unborn are *precious* to God.\*\*\*\*\*

➤ For at least 7 reasons:

1. They're his handiwork.  
The unborn are precious to God because they are the work of his hands.  
Turn with me to Ps 139:13-16.

King David is also writing here, and starts with the word “For” because what he’s about to say is support for God’s omniscience and omnipresence.

[13] For you [God] formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. [14] I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. [15] My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth [a metaphor for the womb]. [16] Your eyes saw my unformed substance.

From the moment of conception, the baby in your womb is the work of God’s hands. His handiwork. *You formed my inward parts*, v13. *You knitted me together*.

Which makes every single baby precious to him.

Like a masterpiece is precious to an artist. Or a heart-felt song is precious to the composer. Or an impressive building is precious to the architect.

The unborn are precious to God because they’re his personal handiwork.

2. He accounts for their life long before they ever exist.

V16 – *In your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

God considers the unborn so precious, that he accounts for every single day of their lives, before the first one ever dawns.

3. They’re made in his image.

The Bible says that *God made man* [or mankind] *in his own image* (Gen 1:27; 9:6)

Which among other things, means that we’ve been endowed with a spiritual nature, given the capacity for emotions, and have the ability to think.

Something he says about no other animal or aspect of his creation.

That means we’re unique, and therefore precious. No matter how small.

4. He demands punishment for their harm.

Ex 21:23 makes it clear that God considers the death or harm of an unborn *baby*, the same way he does the death or harm of anyone else.

Because he demands the same punishment for their harm.

5. He refers to them the same way he does newborns.

In the New Testament, Luke, a doctor, uses the same word to refer to the *unborn* John the Baptist, the *newborn* Jesus, and the *infants* who were brought to Jesus later.

He calls them all *babies*. When he could have used *different* words to distinguish between them. Indicating that he considered them all the same – born *or* unborn.

6. He tells us to stick up for them.

**Ps 82:3-4** – *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

God wouldn’t so explicitly tell us to do that, unless the weak, fatherless, afflicted, and destitute were precious to him. Certainly including babies at risk of abortion.

They of *all* people need to be rescued and stood up for.\*\*\*\*\*

7. He hates the shedding of innocent blood.

Prov 6:17. God hates *hands that shed innocent blood*.

And says in Dt 27:25 – *Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood. Gets paid to do abortions.*

7 reasons the unborn are precious to God, and *should* be precious to us.

Jesus *loves* the little children. *All* the children of the world. Red, brown, yellow, black, and white – born or unborn – they are *precious* in his sight.

**3. It’s necessary to educate yourself and act (Is 1:15-17)**

Ignoring the issue and hoping it goes away is not the answer.

Nor is it okay to think it’s someone *else*’s responsibility. You know, the professionals.

Those who run pro-life *ministries*.

It takes a church. It takes a community. Where *everyone*, does *something*.

Not where everyone does everything, but everyone does something.

And that, starts with educating yourself. Getting informed.

➤ Turn with me to Is 1:15-17.

God is speaking here, and says to the entire nation of Israel at the time . . .

[15] *When you spread out your hands [to worship], I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood.*

[16] *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, [17] learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.*

If that doesn’t apply to us and abortion, I don’t know what does.

*Your hands are full of blood. Seek justice. Correct oppression.*

And the phrase that I want to focus on is *learn to do good* (17). Learn. As in, *educate* yourself. Figure out *how* to seek justice; what’s *required* to correct the oppression.

➤ To help with that, I’ve given you 6 **websites** on your handout.

**Abort73.com** – My go-to source for sure. It’s comprehensive, straightforward, and clear.

**LifeIssues.org** – The website of Life Issues Institute, under the umbrella of the Susan B. Anthony List. A large politically active organization.

**ADFLegal.org** – The website of Alliance Defending Freedom, who deals with a *variety* of issues; this one included.

**NRLC.org** – The website of the National Right To Life Committee. Covering everything from public policy to public opinion.

**ProLifeTraining.com** – Founded by Scott Klusendorf to help people *think* about abortion, and speak to it.

**EqualRightsInstitute.com** – Focuses on relational apologetics.

I’m not suggesting that you know these like the back of your hand, I’m suggesting that you spend 15 minutes a week on one of these sites . . .

To get a handle on the issues, and *learn to do good*.\*\*\*\*\*

➤ And then, act. If we’re going to correct the oppression and remove the evil like it says in Isaiah, it’s necessary to act, to do something.

Like . . .

**Advocate**

Speak up. *Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.* Prov 31:8.

Whether it's personal conversations with people at work, public conversations in politics, editorials to newspapers, or social media . . .

We must *advocate* for life. *Proactively*.

And . . .

### **Respond**

Especially to the pro-abortion *mantras* that continue to be thrown around. Even though they've been rebutted many times over.

Like, "It's my body, so it's my choice."

No, it's not. On either count.

You may *carry* that baby in your body, but that baby is *not* your body.

And it's no more your choice to end its life *inside* your womb, than outside.

Or how about, "Every baby a wanted baby."

Sounds good. Until you start taking the lives of those you *don't* want.

Or, "I'm not pro-abortion, I'm pro-choice."

That's like saying, "I'm *personally* against child abuse, but if *you* want to do it, go ahead."

And the list goes on. Begging for a loving response.

Or how about becoming a . . .

### **Volunteer**

Pro-life pregnancy centers *always* need good people.

Or maybe you should . . .

### **Intervene**

Join a sidewalk ministry that tries to *discourage* women from entering an abortion clinic.

Like it says in **Prov 24:11** – *Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.*

And certainly we should . . .

### **Give**

Our money and stuff.

And . . .

### **Pray**

*Pray* for the unborn, *pray* for expectant mothers, *pray* for pro-life ministries, *pray* for changed laws, *pray* for lawmakers. And pray for God's mercy.

And last in this list of actions, is . . .

### **Welcome**

*Your* action, God's desire for *your* life, may be to open up your home – from foster care to adoption. The *ultimate* welcome.

Everybody can't do everything, but everybody *should* do something. (**Summary**)

So educate yourself, and then act. It's necessary. Otherwise we'll never bring justice.

And then last, the *final* truth about abortion that I want you to know, is that . . .

### **4. It's possible to be forgiven and healed (Acts 3:19-20a)**

Abortion is wrong, yes. And a terribly destructive way to hide sin, avoid consequences, skirt responsibility, and escape shame.

But it's *not* unforgiveable. It's not beyond the healing touch of Jesus. It's not outside his cleansing flow. It's not an exception to his amazing grace; his gracious love.

If you *confess* the sin of your abortion to God, if you admit it; and you repent, asking him to forgive you, he will. He'll no longer hold it against you, or even *remember* it. True.

**Is 43:25** – *I, I am he* [God says] *who blots out your transgressions for my own sake* [to magnify his grace and glorify his name], *and I will not remember your sins.*

If you confess, he'll forgive. If you soften, he'll restore. If you ask, he'll redeem.

So in the words of the Apostle Peter – *Repent therefore, and turn back* (**Act 3:19-20**)

[admit your abortion, and renounce it], *that your sins may be blotted out, [20] that times of refreshing may come* [healing, rest, peace] *from the presence of the Lord.*

➤ It's possible to be forgiven *and* healed, if you call your abortion what it is, and ask God to forgive you.\*\*\*\*\*

*He will come to* [you] *as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth* (Hosea 6:3b). He will.

And we will too. As a church. (**Summary**)

We're here to help. We're here to love. We're here to encourage and build up, with grace upon grace.

And if you're *considering* an abortion, the *same* is true.

Forgiveness is real, and forgiveness is possible. Along with healing.

Pray – Lord, for those who are crushed by guilt, be their peace; their comfort. For those who are devastated, be their rock. For those who are broken, be their healer. And forgive us all for our complacency. Awaken us to act. And somehow, some way, remove this blight from our land.