

Sanctity of Life

Intro / Bibles—turn to **Genesis 1:26-27**—we will get there momentarily.
It's a privilege to bring the message today. A message in light of Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which was officially last Sunday.

A nationally designated remembrance first announced back in 1984. It's a remembrance marking the infamous Supreme Court decision in 1973, legalizing abortion.

The sanctity of human life----the belief that all human life is precious and has intrinsic value. The conviction that all human life is sacred and worthy to be protected and cared for in all stages and development. Including the most vulnerable—the pre-born.

If you are a professing believer in Jesus Christ and don't consider yourself pro-life on the issue of abortion (1 in 3i), we pray you will submit yourself to the authority of God's Word and be convinced otherwise.

As a church we always desire to speak truth. But we also want to speak and provide grace. Jesus Christ as he walked this earth was full of grace and full of truth. As we desire be more like him, we seek to preach not just truth but also grace. Grace found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I have to imagine in a group this size that abortion has impacted some of you personally. If you are thinking about having one (more than 4 out of 10 women were attending church when they had an abortionii) ...please push pause and let us speak with you.

We want to love on you, inform you and provide whatever we can to help you not follow through with the irreversible decision of abortion. No judgment. Just Christ-centered care.

If you have had an abortion, this message is not meant to condemn, shame or heap greater guilt on you. All life is precious and valuable and that includes yours.

Forgiveness and redemption are available. Right here. Right now. Through the incredible and perfect grace and hope of Jesus Christ. (Deanna)

Men...that includes you too. If you have demanded, coerced, paid for, or did nothing to stop an abortion...repent. Do it now. Where you sit.

The cross of Jesus Christ is more powerful than any sin. Abortion included. Jesus offers forgiveness, grace and mercy.

➤ As a church we are unashamedly 100% pro-life.
Simply because, God's Word says he is, which means we are.

God's Word helps us to develop among other things, a pro-life worldview.
A biblical framework rooted in God's Word, that determines our beliefs (what is true), creates our values (what we consider good and right) and influences our behavior (what we do).

It is my prayer, that we will deepen our protection and care for all life. Maybe for the first time. Or maybe just resolving to be more involved somehow and in some way.

All that to say, abortion is a theological issue long before it's a political one.

Abortion rejects biblical truth Gen. 1:26-27

The biblical truth that human life is made in the image of God

This is about how God has created man, mankind...man and women.

Look at

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God, he created him;
male and female he created them.

God speaks into existence everything and then there's this distinct difference in verse 26. He approaches the creation of man uniquely.

Gen 2:7 then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

While creating everything else, God says...let there be, and it was. He speaks it into existence

Not with man, he rolls up his sleeves and builds his greatest creation. Using the dust of the earth. (the word Adam similar to the Hebrew word for earth)

And then personally breathed his very breathe into man. Divine CPR-- breathing into man's nostrils. Making man the crown of his creation.
Creating man in his image. Creation fashioned after the Creator.

It means we are *like God and represent God. Not God-like* but rather we have similar aspects as God does; moral, spiritual, mental, relational aspects.

➤ We have three dogs:

- Bruce walks in circles for no reason and yet he has never questioned his purpose in life.
- Libby shakes uncontrollably due to anxiety, but I have never heard her casting her anxieties on the Lord
- Henry is completely blind and deaf, and we are trying to determine when we can put him down.

Why? Because they are not made in God's image.

We are called to care for and steward this creation but only man is made in the image of God. Giving immense value and worth to all human life.

Human life deserving of our highest honor and protection because it is the most like God.

- And yet the President back in November signed into law making it a federal crime to do to an animal what is done to the unborn close to 3,000 times every day. It's called the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act.

The bipartisan bill, will outlaw purposeful *crushing, burning, drowning, suffocation, impalement or other violence causing "serious bodily injury" to animals*. Violations could result in a fine and up to seven years' imprisonment.iii

That is clear evidence of just how far our society has gone in **exchanging the truth about God for a lie and worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator.** Romans 1

All human life bears God's image.

Regardless of color, race, ethnicity, gender, religion (atheist), lifestyle, socio-economic status, physical and mental challenges, age, education, intelligence, productivity, circumstances or location. All human life is precious and priceless—pre-born to deathbed.

As followers of Jesus and students of God's Word, there is no room for qualifiers in regard to the sanctity of human life. None. Zero.
We are not the determiner of the value of human life—God is.

And abortion rejects that truth

Abortion ignores scientific reality Ps 72:13-14

The scientific reality that life begins at conception.

This isn't new news. It's been proven and accepted. Anyone with an ounce of intellectual integrity should accept the clear reality that life begins at conception.

In 1981 world famous French geneticist Jerome Lejern testified before a US congressional hearing by saying, "to accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion ... it is plain experimental evidence."

It's no longer a theory open for debate. It's a scientific fact.

But even today, even though that's excepted, it's simply ignored.

Primarily because those who carry the greatest responsibility to protect, also carry the greatest ability exert their wants over the pre-born child.

Abortion is a simple case of me before you with devastating results.

Abortion is a me decision...

1. Inconvenience to me
2. Too much cost to me
3. Too much uncertainty to me

Dr. Alveda King (niece to MLK and director of Civil Rights for the Unborn) said,

ONSCREEN "Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives."

Where the fear of God is absent, man begins to believe they are the ultimate authority. Their rights trump. No matter how innocent the lives are being trumped.

It's so backwards to me, that we find it easier to provide greater care for an unplanned, costly stray dog.

The automatic first response for the intrusion and inconvenience of a lost or stray pet is providing care, and security --whether in our home, back to the true owner or a shelter. We don't ever think killing the dog is the right response.

We need God's heart...turn to

Psalm 72:13-14 reveals the heart of God.

**'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.**

Referring to innocent outside of the womb and certainly including the weak and the needy innocent human being within the womb.

A human being with its own unique DNA. Fingerprints. Brain waves. And heartbeat. Which is why 84% of women who view an ultrasound of their baby, don't have an abortion.^{iv} **VIDEO** most detailed MRI scan of 20-week yr. old little girl

No matter how you look at it, if life begins at conception than abortion ends a life. Over 60 million since 1973.

Babies that God specifically had a hand in making

Forming them/ knitting them together/ fearfully and wonderfully/ he knew each one/ before there was even one day experienced outside of the womb. (Psalm 139)

Abortion devalues the pre-born to the point of ending a life.

Abortion is a biblical, scientific and also a human's rights issue.

Abortion denies human rights. Proverbs 24:11

The human rights of a precious person.

The focus is now about removing the classification of *personhood* from the life within a women's body.

Meaning, if an unborn baby isn't a person they don't enjoy the same protection, equality and value as all of us have sitting here today.

Certainly, contrary to what our nation was founded on:

Declaration of Independence: (paraphrasing)

All men are created equal; have certain rights that cannot be denied or taken away---life, liberty and pursuit of happiness.

U.S. Constitution;

" no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

That's not Scripture, but it comes from Judeo-Christian principles. Principles that come from God's Word and are self-evident. We know this innately. We don't have to be taught this; in fact, we have to have our minds darkened to believe otherwise.

Whenever a life is devalued. Stripped of equality. Declassified to something less than what it is...horrific crimes and injustices prevail.

Let's get honest, American history will forever be stained by crimes and injustices caused by dehumanizing persons.

Like...

- Native American human beings at one time were not considered legal persons. Which led to denying them property and confiscating their land.
- African American human beings were declared property of masters. Leading to dehumanizing them and denying them liberty.

- Pre-born of today thanks to Roe v. Wade of 1973, are denied the status of personhood in order to legalize abortion.

History has already proven we were wrong on the first two.

Proverbs 24:11 tells us to “Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.”

No people group is experiencing this more than the unborn right now. The number one cause of death is abortion.

The death of a person

A person at the moment of conception.

Just like David said of himself in **Psalm 51:5**

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Meaning, not only did David consider himself a sinful person from the time of his birth

But he was a sinful person from conception—*in sin did my mother conceive me*.

She conceived him with a sin nature. (not referring to his mother’s sin but his own)

And the pronoun me, implies that he was a person at conception.

Just like he was when he wrote the passage.

And being made in the same way as David was, so are we.

Abortion denies human rights because the unborn is a person just like we are today.

Let’s end on a positive note:

1. God is still God
 - a. He is still sovereign, still in control.. The laws of our land are not more powerful than our God. There will be a Day that he will make all things new and right.
 - b. Until he fixes everything, we can rest assured that He redeems the lives of the babies aborted **Ps 72 (they are safe in his arms)**
2. Support for Planned Parenthood seems to be declining^v:
 - a. Donors are down by 400,000^{vi}
 - b. Donations dropped over \$39 M^{vii}

3. In 2019, 21 states attempted to pass pro-life laws.

The pro-life movement is alive and well.

But it starts with us. The church. Throughout history God has used the church to be his agents of mercy. His carriers of the truth. The vessel of the Holy Spirit.

Making the idea of a world without the church---unthinkable.

The church filled with the HS and compelled by grace has pushed back the darkness of evil time and time again. The church has met the needs of the destitute. Has went where no one else was willing to go. And this no time to shrink back.

Let us be counted among the many who have gone before us as we engage with the battle that rages for the lives of the pre-born.

- Educate yourself (**handout**)
 - The information available from pro-life orgs. about abortion and what to do is overwhelming. We have zero excuse for not knowing.
- Do something—can’t do everything but you can do at least one thing.

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

That’s a command. And pre-born babies are people that need rescued and defended.

Do something....

Open your mouth: Be ready with a gentle answer to pro-choice conversations. A woman’s right not to be pregnant is not the issue, a voiceless child’s right to live is.

- An unwanted child is not the issue, adoption is.
- Circumstances are not the issue, the innocent child is

Open your mouth and respond in love with a biblical worldview. Abortion ultimately is a heart issue. Only God changes hearts. Allow him to use you to do so.

- Volunteer –Pregnancy resources—women *and* men
- Give—money and needed supplies
- Pray—For pre-born, mothers, men, pro-life ministries, changed laws, for God’s mercy on our country. We need to live our lives in the fear of the Lord. He is loving and gracious, but our country runs red with the innocent blood of 61 million babies and judgment is real.
- Adopt—the number of couples looking to adopt match the number of abortions annually.^{viii}

Stop out and talk with Trish in the lobby. Get on your knees and pray. Open up your wallet.

But let’s do something.

Pray

ⁱ TGC website, January 25, 2020 ref. Marist poll

ⁱⁱ Focus on the Family website, June 21, 2018

ⁱⁱⁱ Washington Post November 25th, 2019

^{iv} www.lifenews.com/nat2015.html

^vObria medical clinic, Iowa City, Iowa

^{vi} Liveaction.org

^{vii} Liveaction.org

^{viii} Obria Medical clinics, Iowa City, Iowa