

## SHARING THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN THE LAND

At least once every January—in conjunction with “Sanctity of Human Life” Sunday—I preach a pro-life/anti-abortion sermon. Although **last Sunday** was officially designated as “Sanctity of Human Life” Sunday for 2026, I opted to preach on it **this week** because of the Pro-Life march that some of us will be participating in this afternoon.

So why do I feel the need to preach on this topic—**my least favorite**—at least once each year? **Good question**—especially when you look at our congregation! Not to name names but look around you. How many females—right now; in this auditorium—could **become pregnant** and seek an abortion? Not very many, right?

So **why** preach on it? One reason is this: more people **listen to these** sermons on Facebook than are here in person! That means there are potentially more people that this subject applies to than “meets the eye” on a Sunday morning! But that is **not the reason** I felt led to bring this sermon.

Earlier this week, I read some abortion statistics that surprised me—and will probably surprise you as well. I want to share **four** of them with you.

1) The number of abortions performed in the US has **not gone down**—significantly—since the overturn of Roe vs Wade. In fact, it has probably gone up! For example, in 2024, there were 1,038,100 clinician-provided abortions in US states without total abortion bans, **an increase** from 2023.

Getting exact data is becoming more and more difficult, though, due to the availability of on-line “tele-visits” where abortion drugs can be prescribed with very little oversight and tracking.

Anyone listen to the Crosstalk program from this past Wednesday about the abortion pill? If not, I would encourage you to do that. It goes into detail about how the pills work, how dangerous they are, and how little information is provided to the women who are sent them—like what to do with the baby they just killed!

2) Here’s a second statistic that surprised me: The **majority of women** who seek abortions are **already mothers!** In 2019, it was roughly 60%; in 2022 it was 55%. Let that sink in!

Women—who have already had and held a precious child in their arms that they gave birth to—are “okay” with ending a second (or 3<sup>rd</sup>) child’s life!

3) **Church-going women** have abortions! One study found that 36% of women were attending a Christian church **once a month or more** at the time of their **first** abortion.

4) The vast majority of people base the “rightness” or “wrongness” of abortion on **the age of the unborn child!** One survey—from 2024—showed that “...69% of Americans felt abortion should be ‘generally’ legal in the first trimester, but that percentage dropped to 37% for the second trimester, and 2% for the third trimester.”

Let’s **put some numbers** to this and think it through a little bit.

Sadly, 69%—**69** out of 100 Americans—think it is okay for someone to kill a baby when it is **less than 3 months old** in the womb.

However, once that baby is between 3 months and 6 months old in the womb, **32** of those 69 people **change their mind**—and now only **37** think it’s okay to kill the baby.

And, once that baby reaches the age of **6 months or more** in the womb, the number of people who think it’s okay to kill the baby goes from **37** down to **2!**

Why do the numbers go down so much? Why—as the **baby got older**—do people believe it becomes **less okay** to kill it? Is it because they believe the baby is **more human at 6 months** old in the womb than it was **at 3 months**—and that the baby will be **even more human** as it gets closer to being **9 months old** in the womb? I hope you agree that that does not make any sense!

So why bring a message on abortion? Because God's people—and Biblical Christianity as a whole—are failing to educate the people they "rub elbows with" that life begins at conception—and that having a child is a blessing, not a curse!

Notice on your outline **Hosea 4:1**, "Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor **knowledge of God** in the land."

Is the church Israel? No; we have not replaced Israel!

But...the church is to share the message of truth...and mercy...and the knowledge of God!

Jesus said in Mt 5:13 that "Ye are the **salt** of the earth..." What does **salt do?** Salt in Jesus' day was used to **preserve** food—especially meat. So Jesus' disciplers, as the salt of the earth, are to do what we can to stop sin from "decaying" the world we live in.

Jesus also said in Mt 5:14 that "Ye are the **light** of the world." What does **light do?** It **exposes** what is happening in the dark—and drives out darkness. So we, as God's people, are to expose sin—and drive it out!

Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove them.**"

Here Paul is saying that just being a **non-participant** in sin is not enough! We need to reprove—we need to expose and speak out against—sin!

And that is why we need a message on abortion! **All of us**—not just pastors—need to **know** what God says so well that we can share it with others—often times at moment's notice!

Why **everyone?** Because an **unmarried pregnant teen** will probably tell **another teen girl** before she tells her parents! And the teen **father-to-be** will probably tell another teen guy before he tells his parents! And a **mom**—who unexpectedly becomes pregnant and is overwhelmed by the thought of having another child—would discuss thoughts of having an abortion with **another mom** way before she considers discussing it with a pastor!

And it is possible—based on family dynamics—that a young lady would rather **tell her grandparents** about being pregnant than tell her parents! That is why all of us need to be ready!

This morning's message is going to be more of a "fireside chat" than a sermon. In fact, Ron may have to turn up the volume! It will also be different in that we will be moving around in our Bibles a little more than usual.

The first thought I want us to consider is this: **1. Be prepared to share God's truth**

Please know that I'm **not talking about the kind of preparation** needed to be like Charlie Kirk and go on liberal college campuses to debate! What I'm talking about is being prepared to have an **unplanned conversation** with someone when the topic comes up—like the examples I gave earlier. We need to be equipped and prepared to deal with the false thinking—and teaching—that a baby in the womb is **not a baby** at first, but that it becomes "more human" the longer it is in the womb!

What do we need to be prepared to share? At a minimum, these 3 truths:

A. Human life begins at conception

Is the word "conception" in the Bible? Yes; it is—3 times! Notice on your outline **Ruth 4:13** "So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her **conception**, and she bare a son."

Does this verse say, "Life begins at conception?" No; not in those exact words!

**But** it does say this: The son that Ruth had was because God created a life within her! God was the ultimate life-giver—not Boaz and Ruth!

We also see God as the ultimate life-giver in Genesis 29:31 where it says that the LORD opened Leah's womb—and in Genesis 30:22 where it says He did the same for Rachel.

Take your Bibles and turn to Job 31:15. Notice what it says: “Did not He that **made me in the womb** make him? and did not one **fashion us in the womb?**”

--Who made and fashioned Job in the womb?

God did!

--Was Job a human in the womb—or something else?

He was obviously a human!

Please know that there are no verses in the Bible that suggest the slightest possibility that a person is “**less human**” at 3 months in the womb—and “**more human**” at 6 months!

That is a lie that has been declared so loud and so long that supposedly **69 out of 100** people in our country believe it!

Now turn to Psalm 51:5; notice what it says: “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Is David saying that he was conceived in a sinful way, perhaps by an adulterous affair?

No; that’s not what he is saying at all!

**Ryrie’s comment** on this verse is helpful: “It is not that the acts of giving birth or conceiving are in themselves sinful, but that from the moment of conception a person possesses a sinful nature.”

If the moment we are conceived we have a sin nature, we are obviously a human at the moment of conception!

One more; turn to Psalm 139. Notice what it says in vs 15.

--“My substance”—that which I am made of—“was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously [skillfully] wrought in the lowest part of the earth.”

--“Made in secret” and “the lowest part of the earth” refer to being hidden in the womb.

Now vs 16. What is David saying? In a nutshell, he is saying this: ‘You, God, saw me as complete person before I was fully developed.’ Stated another way, ‘You saw me as a man—and had plans for me as a man—while I was an embryo in the womb!’

Here are a few more references showing God’s knowledge of us in the womb: Isaiah 44:24; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5.

I said it once, but here it is again: There are no verses in the Bible that suggest the slightest possibility that a person is “**less human**” at 3 months in the womb—and become “**more human**” as they develop. They are fully human at conception—period!

A second truth we need to be prepared to share is this: B. Children are a blessing from God!

--Esau—when meeting Jacob for the first time after twenty years—asked, “Who are these with thee?”

Jacob’s response? **Genesis 33:5** says, “The children which God hath graciously given thy servant”—referring to himself. These children are a gift from God!

--We’re in Psalm 139; turn toward the front of your Bibles to Psalm 127.

--Vs 3a. “Children are an heritage—an inheritance—from the Lord...” Just as an **inheritance is a gift** from a parent or grandparent, children are a **gift from the Lord**.

--Vs 3b. “...the fruit of the womb—referring to children—is a reward and blessing from God—not a curse or inconvenience!

--Vs 5. “Happy”—not miserable—“is the man that hath his quiver full of them...”

--Turn toward the front of your Bibles some more to Psalm 113. Notice what it says in vs 9:

“He [God] maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a **joyful** mother of children. Praise ye the Lord.” The barren woman was **not in despair** when God gave her children—it brought her joy! And others are to praise God with her for the gift of children!

What are the truths we need to be ready and willing to share?

1) Human life begins at conception

2) Children are a blessing

Number 3... C. Abortion is murder

Abortion is **murder**—not health care—and God **hates** the shedding of innocent blood!

The Bible plainly says that doesn't it? **Proverbs 6:16-17** "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: <sup>17</sup> A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that **shed innocent blood**," Is there anyone—or anything—**more innocent** than an unborn child?

Take your Bibles and turn way to the front to Exodus 21. Look at vs 22. The picture here is of a pregnant woman who gets in the middle of a fight between two men and gets hurt so as to cause the baby to be born. If "no mischief follow"—in other words, there is no harm to the baby—the man who caused the baby to be born early is **still** punished by the paying of a fine.

--v 23 "And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life"

We sometimes have a tendency to hurry over short sentences when we should be slowing down and let them sink in. If mischief follows—if something happens to the baby or the woman—retribution is applied.

--If the baby dies, the man must die. Why? Because a baby in the womb—regardless of the age—is as human as an adult man is—and is of equal value in the sight of God!

(**Note:** some interpret that "the mischief" is only in reference to the mother—not the child).

To recap, nearly 7 out of 10 Americans feel it is okay for a child that is less than 3 months along to be killed. What should we share with them?

- 1) Human life begins at conception
- 2) Children are a blessing from God
- 3) Abortion is murder

But sharing God's truth is not the only thing we are to do! I believe God also wants us to...

## **2. Be prepared to show God's compassion**

I mentioned earlier that 36% of women were attending a Christian church **once a month or more** at the time of their **first** abortion. Very few of those who attended church—only 7%—discussed their abortion decision with anyone at the church. Why so few? Because many of them anticipated a "judgmental" or "condemning" attitude!

And that got me to thinking. How **would I react** if a lady from the church—or community—wanted to talk to me because they were contemplating having an abortion?

And how would **you react** if someone **you knew** wanted to talk **to you** about it? We don't truly **know how** we would react until it actually happened! So let's think about how—according to God's Word—we **should** react.

### A. Compassion during the decision-making process

In Wednesday's Crosstalk show, the guest brought up the scenario of a young woman telling her boyfriend that she was pregnant and that she was thinking about having an abortion. The boyfriend's response? 'Honey; I'll support you in whatever decision you make!'

On the surface, that may sound like a very caring and compassionate thing to say. But in reality, it's not! Compassion is not telling a person what they **want to hear**—compassion is telling **the truth!** And the truth is that **both of them** have the responsibility to protect the life of that child—not just the mother! I was surprised to learn that in 2024, 38% of the women who had an abortion indicated that **the father of the baby was the most influential person** in their abortion decision. I would have guessed the number to be higher!

So...what are the **two options** that a woman has when she finds out she is pregnant? 1) Have the baby and **keep it**; or... 2) give the baby up for **adoption**. Death by abortion should not be an option. **Two wrongs never have—and never will—make a right!**

Sadly, we can even be judgmental when a woman **does the right thing** and keeps the baby! Without being too specific, I remember my initial reaction when I heard that a young lady from a good Christian family was going to have a child out of wedlock. My first thought—being transparent, here—was something like, “I guess that family doesn’t have it together as much as we thought”—or something to that affect.

To which I now say, “Shame on me for thinking that way! And praise God that she did the right thing and her family lovingly supported her each step of the way!”

Lastly, we need to consider the reality that women in our country do have abortions—well over 1 million per year! What do they need if they have **made** that fatal (for their child) decision—and **followed through** with that decision?

They need to be **condemned** and **judged** and **scolded** and **shamed**, right?

**Wrong!** That is **not** what they need! They need... B. Compassion after an abortion

Can the woman who had her baby killed bring him or her **back to life**?

--No; they can't!

Will the woman who allowed her baby to be killed—and the doctors and nurses involved—all **stand before you** some day to be judged?

--No; they won't! They'll stand **before God**—not you!

Does the woman who allowed her baby to be killed have feelings of **confusion...and guilt...and shame**?

--Studies show that often-times they do!

Does the woman who allowed her baby to be killed have feelings of **depression...and despair... and hopelessness** and sometime **become suicidal**?

--The answer again is “Yes”—and that is why they need someone like you and I to introduce them to Jesus Christ—the only One who can take that burden and guilt away!

Is abortion the unforgivable, unpardonable sin? **No, it's not!**

--But I'm afraid too many of us treat it that way! We decide—in our minds—that a person that was willing to have their child killed is past forgiveness!

Is there anyone who has passed the point of forgiveness? **No**—not if they are on this side of the grave, they're not!

**Ps 86:5** “For thou, Lord, art good, and **ready to forgive**; and **plenteous in mercy** unto all them that call upon thee.”

--Is God **ready to forgive** the woman who wanted her child to be killed? Yes; He is!

--Is God's mercy **“plenteous” enough** to forgive her that sin? Yes; it is!

--How? Why?

Because Jesus Christ gave Himself as a sacrifice—and as our substitute—to pay what we deserved—and what we owed. And because that sin was **actually paid for**—by God Himself—God can justly extend forgiveness and mercy to the worst of sinners!

It's not just the mother who had her baby killed that needs forgiveness, though! **All of us** need forgiveness and **all of us** need mercy and **all of us** need salvation from the **penalty of our sins** because **all of us have sinned!**

According to this verse, who does God forgive? For whom is God “plenteous in mercy”?

Unto all that **call** upon Him! So the question we each need to ask ourselves is this: Has there been a point in time in **your life** when you came to God in repentance and asked Him to forgive **you**?

God is ready to forgive—and plenteous in mercy!

In light of what we have heard today from God's Word, what does God want us to do?

1. First and foremost, do you **have Christ?** We need to possess Him, don't we—not just know about Him! I John 5:12 makes it plain that there are only two groups of people in the view of God: those that have His Son—and those that don't!
2. Be ready to share what you have heard this morning with others—at a moment's notice! And the best way to do that—in my opinion—is to keep it fresh in your minds by praying for our country!
3. Examine your heart. Are you judgmental? Do you show the compassion of Christ?
4. Vote for pro-life—not pro-choice—candidates. Be educated on where candidates stand.
5. Financially support—and pray for—organizations that fight against abortion and offer alternatives.