

CHURCH-GOVERNMENT

LIFE TRUTH # 6

THE CHURCH IS AGAINST ABORTION

According to Webster's dictionary, abortion is the termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus. Abortion is the number one cause of death in America. (www.prolifecorner.com and www.epm.org). In Missouri, there are over 7000 abortions a year. This is an average of 20 deaths a day.

Ronald Reagan, our 40th US president, wrote a book in 1983 called *Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation*. He states on page 16, *"Make no mistake, abortion-on-demand is not a right granted by the Constitution. No serious scholar, including one disposed to agree with the Court's results (Roe vs. Wade), has argued that the framers of the Constitution intended to create such a right."*

The founders intended to protect life and liberty. We see this in the second paragraph of our Declaration of Independence. *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."* We have an unalienable right to life from our creator. God is the creator of life and He decides when a person is to be born and when a person is to die.

This issue of taking the life of a child is nothing new. In an old historical document entitled, *Epistle of Barnabas* it states on page 19.5, *"Killers of the child, who abort the mold of God."* Barnabas goes on to say, *"You shall love your neighbor more than your own life. You shall not slay a child by abortion. You shall not kill that which has already been generated."*

Tertullian said in his apology on page 9.4, *"It does not matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to the birth. In both instances, the destruction is murder."*

Augustine in his writings *On Marriage* 1.17.15 warns of the *"terrible crime of the murder of an unborn child."*

The church in our generation needs to do two things. First, we must realize that many women have had abortions and many lives have been affected by them. We must offer grace and forgiveness to those that are suffering because of this decision. God is a God of forgiveness and restoration. Three websites that offer help to those hurting because of abortion are: www.nationalhelpline.org; www.abortionrecovery.org; www.safehavenministries.com

Second, we must continue our efforts to get this decision overturned in our nation. We must educate the nation on God's perspective in this matter. We must use the scriptures to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey all things that Christ taught. Since the Supreme Court's ruling in 1973, legalizing abortion across our land, people have sought to reverse the decision. Attempts to completely remove abortion from our land have failed. Small battles have been won and lost, but this must not stop the cry of the church. The church is to be "*the pillar and foundation of the truth*" as Paul states in 1 Timothy 3:15. The church is to stand up against heresies and protect the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves. We must not become lazy, apathetic, or indifferent in our efforts to save unborn children. We must educate and raise a generation who will not stop until they defeat this evil.

On January 23, 2012, Lifesitenews.com presented their analysis. They estimated that since 1973, there have been 54.5 million babies aborted. In my small Missouri town, there are about 7,000 people. This means the amount of abortions since 1973 equals approximately 8,000 small towns in the U.S. being destroyed.

Some may argue that removing "cells" from a pregnant woman is not the same as murder. What does the medical profession use as their standard for "life"? The medical profession says that if you have a detectable heartbeat or brainwave activity you are alive. The cells of an embryo have a heartbeat eighteen days after conception. They have detectable brainwave activity forty days after conception. Abortions generally occur more than 49 days after conception.

Until the new morning after pill, abortions were administered when these "cells" were already considered alive by our own medical professionals. In Missouri Law, Chapter 188.015, regulation of abortion states, "*Abortion: the act of using or prescribing any instrument, device, medicine, drug, or any other means or substance with the intent to destroy the life of an embryo or fetus in his or her mother's womb.*" Our own law states that our goal in abortion is to destroy life.

In 1857, the Supreme Court ruled that Negroes were not citizens of the United States. This ruling was part of the Dred Scott case. He eventually won his freedom, but it did not happen overnight. It was a long, hard fought battle. Today, we know the good that came from this decision. All people are created by God and have God-given unalienable rights. A person's race does not matter. People that stand up for the rights of others are heroes. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mother Teresa are just two of the many people who are remembered for their commitment and compassion in defending the rights of others. Abortion is a terrible evil that opened the door for man to decide when someone should live or die. In Indiana, there was the case against Baby Doe, a child born with Down Syndrome. Doctors advised the parents to kill the child because he would be retarded and not have good quality of life. The case was taken before the Indiana Supreme Court. The court ruled in favor of the doctors. The child was eventually starved to death. Man has no right to decide who should live and who should die. This is God's decision. Our

responsibility is to love God and love our fellowman. Life on this earth is not a matter of convenience or quality, but one of obedience to our creator. We are to love and minister to all people, no matter what issues they must face.

The church should be desperately seeking to overturn the Supreme Court's decision concerning abortion. It is a decision that has greatly affected our entire nation. We should be one voice on this issue. We need to beg God for His forgiveness and protect the gift of life.

What can we say to educate people about abortion?

1. ABORTION IS MURDER

Murder is the intentional taking of human life. The purpose of an abortion is to destroy life. Missouri Law, Chapter 188.015, regulation of abortions states, "*Abortion: the act of using or prescribing any instrument, device, medicine, drug, or any other means or substance with the intent to destroy the life of an embryo or fetus in his or her mother's womb.*"

Murder is the unlawful killing of a human life. In the Old Testament, the punishment for intentional murder was death. *Exodus 21:12-14 (NIV)* ¹² "Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death. ¹³ However, if he does not do it intentionally, but God lets it happen, he is to flee to a place I will designate. ¹⁴ But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death. God does not want us to decide who lives and who dies. That is His responsibility.. *1 Samuel 2:6 (NIV)* ⁶ "The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.

God might allow us to take the life of another, but we will be judged for it. Some may argue that the law says abortion is legal. If the law says that it is okay, then how can it be wrong? Man may legalize sin, but the church is to live by God's law. The sixth commandment of the Ten states in *Exodus 20:13 (NIV)* ¹³ "You shall not murder."

Satan seeks to numb us to reality of death. There are many violent scenes depicting murder on television. There are many video games that depict murder as no big deal. Life is precious. The church needs to respect life and turn off violent shows that depict murder. People become desensitized to violence because they see it over and over again in the media. Why does a teenager walk into a school and start shooting? Why do people continue to kill others? It is because they have become desensitized to the preciousness of life. Violence and murder no longer shock them.

The church must stand up for life. We need to stop watching violent shows. They are not innocent entertainment. Satan has a goal. He is achieving his goal when we allow these images into our homes and lives. We must be more concerned with pleasing God than pleasing ourselves. Would Jesus watch violent shows that depict murder? Every life is precious to God. It breaks His heart when man, inspired by Satan, murders another.

No matter what the law says, the church is to obey God rather than man; even if man says it is legal to abort a baby. In the New Testament, there was an incident where King Herod

committed adultery. He divorced his wife and took his brother's wife for his own. He was the king at the time, so no one went against his decision except a bold man of God, named John the Baptist. While everyone just accepted what he did and kept quiet about it, King Herod heard John boldly speak against it. Herodias was the woman who was his brother's wife and whom Herod married. She hated John for accusing them of sin. It says in *Mark 6:17-18 (NIV)* ¹⁷ *For Herod himself had given orders to have John arrested, and he had him bound and put in prison. He did this because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, whom he had married.* ¹⁸ *For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."*

John was not afraid of Herod. He called sin exactly what it was. He said, *"It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."* John was referring to God's law; not man's law. *Leviticus 18:16 (NIV)* ¹⁶ *"Do not have sexual relations with your brother's wife; that would dishonor your brother."*

We need to be as bold as John on this topic. We need to tell people that abortion is murder. According to God's Word, it is not lawful to allow abortions. Remember our first Self Government Life Truth – Scripture alone is what governs us. What if people persecute you for taking such a stand? John the Baptist was beheaded over the stance that he took. But where is John now? He is in heaven with Jesus. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed for his stance. But where is he today? He is in heaven with Jesus. The people of God need to be bold and not fear man. We need to speak out against abortions. It is murder and God is not pleased with it. God can restore, heal, and forgive those who have had abortions, those who have performed abortions, and those who have allowed abortions to occur; but we must repent now.

1. IT IS A CHILD IN THE WOMB

Many argue that it is only "cells" in the womb. There is a double standard on this topic. If someone kills a pregnant mother, the person is charged with a double homicide. Advocates for abortion call what is in the womb "cells" in order to justify what they are doing. We know what these "cells" become if left to grow as God intends. It is a child in the womb and not just cells. A child that grows and matures just as God designed. It is the miracle of life.

Our answers do not come from the debate or the reasoning of man. Our answers come from the Scriptures. The Bible has a lot to say about the "child" in the womb. In the Old Testament there is a story about Jacob and Esau in the womb. Isaac their father is praying to God to allow Rebekah his wife to have children. The Lord answers his prayer and she becomes pregnant. *Genesis 25:21-23 (NIV)* ²¹ *Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.* ²² *The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.* ²³ *The LORD said to her, "Two*

nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

Notice that the passage calls what is in her womb babies and not cells. They are babies, and more specifically, they each have a purpose and a plan designed by God. They each will become a nation. We have no right to abort the plans of God. God is the creator of life. We are not to decide who will live and who will die.

Look at this passage in *Matthew 1:18 (NIV)* ¹⁸ *This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

Even at the very beginning of her pregnancy the Scriptures are calling what is in Mary's womb a child and not "cells." The Bible is clear; beautiful children are in the womb.

A similar reference was made about John the Baptist when he was in his mother's womb. *Luke 1:41 (NIV)* ⁴¹ *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.*

They are not cells. They are children that God has created for a purpose.

2. NO ONE IS AN ACCIDENT

One argument that people use to defend abortion is that a woman should have the right to choose what is best for her body. Many say that a woman who is raped should not have to have the child from her rapist. Rape is a terrible evil. Those that do such a heinous crime should be punished. But do we have a right to abort the child?

This was the argument in the Roe vs. Wade case that legalized abortion. Norma McCorvey was the young lady in the trial who claimed to be raped. Later, she admitted that she lied and was manipulated during the trial. The website www.unbornintheusa.org says this, *"Norma McCorvey realizes that in her desperate state she was being used. She had become a legal pawn for the country's thriving abortion industry, and a poster girl for the pro-choice movement. A repentant Norma travels the country speaking out against abortion and has written about her role in Roe vs. Wade in her book, "Won By Love." In it, she reveals how she was never raped, and regrets to say: This means that the abortion case that destroyed every state law protecting the unborn was based on a lie."*

Abortion was legalized on the belief that Norma McCorvey was raped and should not have to carry the baby to full term. Look at the breakdown on why children are aborted:

- 1% are victims of rape

- 1 % had fetal abnormalities
- 4 % had a doctor who said the mother's health would worsen if they continued the pregnancy
- 50 % said they didn't want to be a single parent or they had problems in current relationships
- 66 % stated they could not afford a child
- 75 % said the child would interfere with their lives

How has abortion gone from cases of rape *only* to a matter of convenience? 94% of children aborted are aborted for reasons of convenience. This brings us back to the question of whether we have the right to abort a child even in the case of rape. The Biblical answer is no. God does not create any accidents.

Have you ever heard of James Robinson? He has a television program called Life Today. He and his wife are authors of several books. They have formed many organizations. Organizations to rescue hurting children, drill wells in poor countries, feed the poor, and provide medical care for those who cannot afford it. They have helped hundreds of thousands of people over the years and blessed many more through their ministry. Did you know that Mr. Robinson was born out of rape? What if his mother had chosen to abort him? Our world would be a little darker without him and his ministry. God does not make mistakes.

Have you ever heard of Pam Stenzel? She has written several books on the topic of abstinence. She travels the country educating young people on the dangers of premarital sex. She has helped thousands of young people through her message. Did you know that she was born out of rape? She has also authored a book titled, *Except in Cases of Rape*. Her book is the testimonies of many people who have been born out of rape and have gone on to make a difference in society.

God does not create any accidents. He can take a terrible tragedy like rape and turn the situation around by creating a beautiful child who makes a difference in the world.

Look at this passage in *Acts 17:26-28 (NIV)* ²⁶ *From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.* ²⁷ *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.* ²⁸ *'For in him we live and move and have our being.'* *As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'*

The passage tells us that God determines the exact place and time for us to be born. God chooses to allow some to be born out of cases of rape. Children of rape have a purpose just like the rest of us. We may not like the situation. We may not like the circumstances. But we can trust that God has a good purpose and plan for it all. Remember, it is Satan who

causes people to do evil things like rape. It is God who turns things around for His good; like James Robinson, Pam Stenzel and the many others.

3. GOD IS THE CREATOR OF LIFE

God is the creator of us all. He is the one who decides to whom and where we will be born. Look at this passage in *Psalms 139:13-16 (NIV)* ¹³ *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

The passage speaks of the “cells” of the “unformed body”, but it also reminds us that God is the one forming those cells together into a beautiful child. A life that has been specially chosen and with great care created to fulfill the purposes of God. We must not dare to interfere with what the Lord is doing. We must treat everyone with the greatest respect for we are all made in the image of God.

The passage lets us know that all of our days are ordained, even before we are born, we are written in God’s book. God is the author of life. The opposite of life is death. When a person is dead they cease to move. They have no life in them and therefore they cannot move. God is the giver of life. The evidence that we are alive is that we are moving, breathing, and functioning. It says in *Acts 17:25 (NIV)* ²⁵ *And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.* When the “cells” are moving, growing, and maturing inside the mother’s body, we know that they are alive. God is the creator of life. It is because of him that we live and move and have our being.

4. GOD IS A GOD OF FORGIVENESS

For those that have had abortions and those that have performed abortions, God offers forgiveness. God longs for us to ask Him for forgiveness and to come to Him in repentance. If you have been a part of an abortion, cry out to God for forgiveness and let Him heal you. He died on the cross for all sin. When we confess our sin, He purifies us. *1 John 1:9 (NIV)* ⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Those who have not stood up to protect the unborn also need to seek the Lord's forgiveness. The Scriptures are clear that we are responsible to speak up and defend those who are defenseless, weak, and innocent. There is no one more defenseless than an unborn child. Where is the cry to defend the unborn?

The nation of Israel was accused of having a lot of blood on their hands because they did not speak up for the weak. Could the same be said of our generation? Could the same be said of you? *Isaiah 1:15-17 (NIV)* ¹⁵ *When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; ¹⁶ wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, ¹⁷ learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.*

It says in *Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV)* ³ *Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

The innocent, defenseless children need to be rescued. Here are some facts about abortions and how these babies are killed. It is hard to read, but it needs to be told. This information was taken from www.gospelway.com/morality/abortion.php.

D & C or Dilatation and Curettage Abortion

This method is common during the first 13 weeks of pregnancy. A tiny hoe-like instrument, the curette, is inserted into the womb through the dilated cervix. The abortionist then scrapes the wall of the uterus, cutting the baby's body to pieces.

Suction Abortion

This technique, pioneered in Communist China, is common for early pregnancies. A powerful suction tube is inserted into the womb; then the body of the developing baby is torn to pieces and sucked into a jar. Even early in pregnancy body parts are recognizable as arms, legs, etc. There is ultra-sound evidence that the baby feels the pain (as in the movie "The Silent Scream").

Salt Poisoning

This has been used in advanced pregnancies. A needle is inserted through the mother's abdomen, and a strong salt solution is injected into the amniotic fluid that surrounds the child. The baby is slowly poisoned and burned by the salt it swallows and "breathes." The mother then goes into labor and expels a grotesque, shriveled baby. Some babies are born alive but deformed.

Hysterotomy or Cesarean Section Abortion

This method is used in the last trimester of pregnancy. The womb is entered by surgery. Then the tiny baby is killed and removed.

Prostaglandin Chemical Abortion

Hormone-like compounds are injected into the muscle of the uterus, causing it to contract intensely and push out the developing baby. Many babies are born alive.

Dilatation & Extraction ("Partial Birth Abortion")

In this late-term method, the doctor uses forceps to remove the baby from the womb. The head, however, is too big to be extracted. So the abortionist cuts a hole in the base of the skull, suctions out the brain, crushes the skull, and then removes the baby. (See *Lake County Right-to-Life Newsletter*, 4&5/93.)

Newer methods include the "morning after" pill, which may allow conception and then causes the fertilized egg to be expelled from the womb. Note that many so-called "contraceptives" (such as the I.U.D. and even some forms of the "pill") may have a similar effect. Ask your doctor how a "contraceptive" works before using it. (The above information is taken from "Abortion: What It Is," *A.L.L. About Issues*, July, 1982, and other sources.)

Andy Andrews wrote a book entitled, *How Do You Kill 11,000,000 People?* The book is about the terrible tragedy in Germany when Adolf Hitler led his army to kill 11,283,000 people between 1933 and 1945. This figure only represents the institutionalized killings and not the many who were killed during World War II. He answers the question throughout the book and comes to a few conclusions. First, you lie to the people. Second, you tell them the lie over and over until the people believe it. Third, the tragedy continues when good people choose to do nothing. Mr. Andrews tells a chilling story from an eyewitness. This witness was a church member. The train tracks that carried many to their death ran right behind his church.

The story on page 39 reads, *"We heard stories of what was happening to the Jews, but we tried to distance ourselves from it, because we felt, what could anyone do to stop it? Each Sunday morning, we would hear the train whistle blowing in the distance, then the wheels coming over the tracks. We became disturbed when we heard cries coming from the train as it passed by. We realized that it was carrying Jews like cattle in the cars! Week after week the whistle would blow. We dreaded to hear the sounds of those wheels because we knew that we would hear the cries of the Jews en route to a death camp. Their screams tormented us."*

The tragedy that happened in Germany did not happen because people did not know what was going on. It was because people were afraid to stand up against the injustice. In Germany, you could be thrown into the camp and killed for speaking out against Hitler and what he was doing.

The eyewitness continues on page 40, *"We knew the time the train was coming and when we heard the whistle blow we began singing hymns. By the time the train came past our church, we were singing at the top of our voices. If we heard the screams, we sang more loudly and soon we heard them no more. Years passed and no one talks about it now, but I still hear that train whistle in my sleep."*

We read this story with tears and wonder how could they not do anything? Why did they just sing louder and ignore what was happening in their town? In Germany, they had the fear of death, torture, and being torn from their families. We have nothing to fear in comparison. We need to be speaking out against the injustice of abortion. We need to protect and defend the unborn babies that are being killed in our nation every week. We need to be appalled that our government spends roughly \$540 million dollars a year to destroy children; calling it healthcare. It is estimated that 54 million children have been

aborted since 1973. This number is hard to even comprehend but it is a reality in today's world. What will we do? Will we continue to sing our church songs and ignore what's going on around us?

We need people to fill church prayer meetings. We need to beg God for forgiveness and to ask Him to heal our land. Our nation is falling apart because people are too busy to come to church and pray. We must not be too busy to pray. We need people to speak out against abortion by calling their state representatives, by being aware of new legislation, and by lobbying for laws to be changed. Abortion needs to be banned from our nation. We need to elect candidates who believe in the Scriptures and agree that abortion is murder.

We need healing groups for those who have had abortions and Bible studies and other ministries to help those who are hurting because of a decision to abort. The church needs to minister and offer forgiveness to those affected by this sin.

God is a God of forgiveness, but we must repent. We must ask Him to forgive us and to help us get the evil of abortion out of our land. Every life is a gift from God. Life is to be cherished, nurtured, and protected.