

“The Sanctity of Human Life”

Proverbs 6:16-19

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## “The Sanctity of Human Life”

I would like to address a serious subject, a very sensitive subject, yet one that I believe that Prestonwood Baptist Church and the church at large in America and Christians everywhere need to hear. It's something that needs to be addressed because we as a Church have become pretty flabby in our stance and our convictions concerning the great moral issues of our times. Edmond Burke said, “The sure way for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.”

And I'm afraid that many of God's people have done nothing when it comes to the great social issues of our times. The first of which that I recall on this day of Sanctity of Life Sunday is the slaughter of the innocence; our national and international holocaust commonly called abortion.

I realize that we must be sensitive to the hurts and the past of those who are in a congregation like this one. And our purpose in this message tonight is not to tear down but to build up.

I want to say at the outset that the grace of God is available to any person and every person within the sound of my voice. God's love and God's forgiveness and God's grace through the cross of Jesus Christ is available. The Scripture says the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses from all sin. And we rejoice in that and that's where we can say Amen!

At the same time I believe that it is appropriate always for the minister... for the man in the pulpit... for the pastor to raise God's highest and holiest of standards. We do not do our people a favor... we do not do the community a favor when we lower our standards or compromise God's truth. And so I come with boldness tonight and yet with a burden to preach on this horrific subject, on the slaughter of the innocence, abortion.

Would you take your Bibles and turn with me to Proverbs chapter 6? I have two texts tonight. The first one is at the sixth chapter of Proverbs and verse 16 and following. Then you might be finding Deuteronomy chapter 30 as well.

<sup>16</sup> These six *things* the Lord hates,

Yes, seven *are* an abomination to Him:

- 17 A proud look,  
 A lying tongue,  
 Hands that shed innocent blood,  
 18 A heart that devises wicked plans,  
 Feet that are swift in running to evil,  
 19 A false witness *who* speaks lies,  
 And one who sows discord among brethren.

Now in the thirtieth chapter in the book of Deuteronomy, at verse 15:

- 15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,  
 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways,  
 and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you  
 may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which  
 you go to possess.  
 17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and  
 worship other gods and serve them,  
 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong  
*your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess.  
 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before  
 you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you  
 and your descendants may live;  
 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that  
 you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that  
 you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham,  
 Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

How valuable is a human life? Several years ago you will recall that a young toddler fell into a well out in west Texas. And the whole world watched and waited as every human effort; almost supernatural effort was made to deliver a small child through that narrow pipe in that well. Her name? Jessica McClure. And we wept and we prayed and we asked God to deliver that little girl and we all thank God and rejoice that Jessica is alive and well today. That’s a wonderful remembrance. It’s a piece of Americana that we remember in this generation.

But isn't it interesting while young Jessica McClure was in that well, and while we were making every effort... news media, churches, schools, organizations of all kinds were meeting together to pray together, to discuss it. And yet while we were talking about that one precious little life, thousands upon thousands of babies were aborted in their mother's womb.

For today, on this day and every day in so-called God blessed America, 4000 babies will perish in their mother's womb! That's 3 every minute. By the time we conclude this sermon, this message, 90 babies will have been aborted in this nation. There will be no trial. There will be no jurors. There will be no advocates... no one to speak for them. Yet they will die. They will be executed in a cruel and inhuman way.

Some by suction, removing them and tearing those small little limbs piece by piece from the mother's womb. Others will be scraped surgically from the womb. Others will die in writhing agony and pain by searing salt solution injection. Still others will be removed from the wombs of their mothers and left to die on a table.

You say, "Jack, that's... that's crass, that's insensitive of you to talk about that tonight. Why do you do that?" I want you to understand... I want these young people to under... understand the seriousness of what we're talking about. This is not minor surgery. This is a major impact upon lives, both the lives of the mother and the family and, of course, the life of the unborn.

Why is abortion wrong? I mention four or five reasons tonight. Number one, abortion is legally wrong... legally wrong! The Supreme Court, 9 men robed in black, voted 7 to 2 that a mother may abort the child and only three requirements for any reason or no reason can justify the abortion of a baby. The 3 requirements are these: that the baby still lives inside the mother's body; number 2, that the mother wants the baby aborted; and 3, that a doctor is willing to perform the abortion and to do the killing. So it goes on.

The law simply says it this way, "A state is forbidden to prescribe or forbid abortion any time before birth if in the opinion of one licensed physician an abortion is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother." And it is in that last little phrase... "the health of the mother" that Pandora's box has been opened and all kind of evil has crept in or out. The key phrase in the interpretation of this law and the application of this law has been that phrase, "the health of the mother." Because that phrase has come to mean practically nothing.

For example, in defining the term “the health of the mother” the courts have said that the medical judgment, and I quote... “The medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors: physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age relevant to the well being of the patient. All of these factors may relate to the health of the mother.”

So if having the baby brings stress, or distress, or psychological difficulty or trauma, or the trouble of an unwanted ... ah... ah unwanted pregnancy or an unwanted child, if there is the stigma of unwed motherhood, if that in some way is interpreted to mean the health of the mother, then the abortion may be performed. And they are performed.

The Supreme Court made its decision with the understanding that laws could be made independently of the Constitution based upon the necessity of the moment. And that decision made... Roe versus Wade in 1973, January the 22<sup>nd</sup>... was made in a moral vacuum, because the decision was justified on the grounds of the right to individual privacy.

One of the dissenting judges, Byron R... Byron White who wrote the dissenting report said these words, and I quote, “I find nothing in the language or history of the Constitution to support the Court’s judgment. The Court simply fashions and announces a new Constitutional right as an exercise of raw judicial power. The Court perhaps had authority to do what it does today, but in my view its judgment is an improvident and extravagant exercise of the power of judicial review.”

You, of course, realize that this issue has never been voted upon in any kind of referendum, any kind of a duly appointed process, or election in the United States of America. No legislature has ever passed a law for or against abortion! This was done in the courts and has resulted in the horror and holocaust of today.

As a result, since January 22, 1973 and these years over 58 million abortions have been reported, and God only knows how many others. Lives snuffed out! That is more than 50 times the total number of Americans who have died in all of our nation’s wars put together! It is legally wrong!

Now the question is raised: Don’t I have the right to do with my body what I choose to do with my body? And, of course, the issue has been clouded. It is no longer an issue in the minds of most because of the liberal press and media. It is not an issue of life and death; it is an issue of choice and freedom as opposed to restriction. And everyone is pro-choice.

Why it's less than American to deny someone choice! And so some say doesn't a mother have the right... the choice to do with her body exactly as she pleases?

But may I remind you that the baby inside a mother's body is not a part of the moth... mother's body, but is distinct and uniquely a life in and on its own! Just as I don't have the right to murder or to kill an unwanted guest in my home, no one has the right to kill a baby.

Why did the judges proceed to pass this law? Pressure. I mention the moral vacuum in our nation at that time. We're living in a time of situational ethics. Kind of a Cole Porter culture... "Anything Goes." And so to accommodate the culture, to accommodate the lifestyle of our people we have begun to enact all the laws that reflect the moral flagrancy of our people.

We can also say that the justice blundered and passed this law because of the pressure of the humanist group and the feminist groups in our society. Pressure! And it's exactly what happened over 100 years ago in the noted Dred Scott decision in the 1860s when the same Supreme Court in the United States... not the same judicial body, of course, or persons, but the same judicial body in the Dred Scott decision voted 7 to 2 that blacks were non-persons. So the courts can be wrong.

It is legally wrong, and judicially wrong according to the opinion of many legal experts, it's wrong.

Secondly, abortion is medically wrong. It violates the Hippocratic oath, which specifically requires that a physician refuse to participate in an abortion. Fact is, that the Hippocratic oath has become the hypocritical oath, or a lie in itself.

C. Everett Coop, former Surgeon General- United States of America, said, "We can find no point in time between the union of sperm and egg and the birth of an infant at which point we can say, "This is not human life." Medical evidence points to the fact that at early conception we have human life.

You say, "Is the baby alive?" Yes! In a Harvard Medical School study in 1968 the Harvard criteria was developed to determine life and death. To determine when someone was alive or someone was dead. There was a fourfold test. Number one, to determine life or death... there must be to determine death a lack of response to eternal stim... external stimuli. There must be secondly a lack of deep reflex action. Thirdly there must be a lack of spontaneous movement and respiratory effect. And fourthly there must be a lack of brain

activity. The baby in the womb of a mother fails the death test in all four points. Life is in the womb!

There are brain waves, for example, within 5 to 6 weeks of conception. And the baby is alive and functioning in all parts and growing. Everything genetically that that child needs to grow up and find his or her place in the sun is present before the end of the first trimester of the pregnancy.

You say, “Well, what kind of life are we talking about?” Human life! Not vegetable life; human life! Not animal life; human life!

Isn't it interesting so often ah... the term *p.c.* is used to describe the baby in the womb? When the child is aborted the term *p.c.* has been concocted to soften the blow. *PC* ... product of conception.

We need to go back, I think, to the time when a mother was expecting. Rather than just saying that a woman is pregnant, we need to remember that a woman is with child. But life is present!

You say, “Well, are there some doubts?” If you give the fact that there may be some doubts as to when life began, if there is any doubt we had better choose and side with life.

If you're a hunter and you're hunting and someone or something... you're not quite aware... moves in the bushes, you're not sure if it's a human life or animal life, you better be sure you wait before you pull the trigger to discover what kind of life is rustling in the bushes. Lest you find yourself before a court for manslaughter.

So medically we're on solid ground. I don't have time to give all the medical evidence tonight. But medically it is wrong.

Say, “Why do the doctors do it? Why do the doctors do this? Why does the medical community so often support this?” Abortion is big business! Big business. M-O-N-E-Y! It's one of the primary motivations, if not THE motivation for many doctors and clinics. These abortion mills and abortion clinics are little gold mines on the grow.

One doctor who was suicidal after performing many abortions, said these words, “The first time I performed an abortion, I felt like a murderer. But I did it again and again, and now 20 years later I'm facing what happened to me as a doctor and as a human being. Sure, I got hard. Sure, the money was important. And, oh, it was an easy thing once I'd taken this step, to see these women as animals and their babies as just tissue.”

I spoke with a dear young mother who went to the doctor who advised her because of complications that she should abort the child. She was horrified at the suggestion and questioned the doctor and said, “What will happen? If I abort my baby what will happen to the baby?” Flippantly this man said, “Don’t worry about it. We just flush them down the toilet.” That kind of hard, crass, bitter spirits has become predominant in the minds of so many.

Abortion is legally wrong, abortion is medically wrong, and abortion is psychologically wrong. It denies the God-given instinct of both motherhood and fatherhood. And Kathryn Specthard, Ph.D, University of Minnesota, did a study on the long-term manifestation of stress as a result of abortions. And in her study she discovered some interesting facts from women who had aborted babies.

- 81 percents of these women reported preoccupation with the aborted child many years later.
- 73 percent reported flashbacks about the experience of the abortion.
- 69 percent ah... expressed feelings of craziness and disorientation.
- 54 percent recalled nightmares related to the abortion.
- 35 percent had perceived visitations from the aborted... aborted child, the child they never met.
- And 23 percent have spoken of hallucinations as a result of a personal trauma of abortion.
- 72 percent of the subjects said that they had no religious beliefs at the time of their abortions.
- And 96 percent in retrospect regarded abortion... Now listen to this!... In this study 96 percent of these ladies regarded their abortion as the taking of life... taking of human life.

Therefore we have today the walking wounded. Precious girls, precious ladies who are walking around carrying a great deal of grief and a great deal of guilt. Recent studies have linked the explosion of teenage suicide to the abortion issue. The reality... The reality is that abortion has become our national birth control method.

The fact is that 76 percent of those who seek abortions are unmarried and abortion has been the clean-up process of dirty lives, of immoral behavior. Fifty-three percent have no

other children. Most are over the age of 20 who have abortions. They are mainly white middle upper class women. And over one third of women going for abortions today are going back for the second and third time.

Trauma, trouble, and distress and dis... disturbance upon the mother... upon the families... upon America has traumatized this nation. And only time will tell the results in the lives of people.

Finally, abortion is biblically wrong. Abortion is biblically wrong. Why? Number one, because the Bible tells us that all persons... persons are unique creations of God. In Genesis chapter 1 and the first chapter of Genesis, verse 16, we're told that man is made in the image of God. Man is not made as a product of conception, as an animal, but rather in the image of God!

What does that mean? That means that all people have a spiritual capability, that all people have a moral accountability. Life is precious because life comes from God! And no one has the right to play God when it comes to life. All of life is sacred! Only God has the right to open and close wombs. You cannot bre... break God's laws without suffering. The Bible says, "I set before you life and death, blessing or cursing, choose life."

Psalm 139... would you take your Bibles and in closing turn to Psalm 139 [pause] verse 13. The psalmist is speaking of the magnificence of the creation of his own life.

For You have formed my inward parts;  
You have covered me in my mother's womb.

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And that my soul knows very well!

My frame was not hidden from You, (that is, my skeleton)  
When I was made in secret;  
Skillfully sought [wrought] in the lowest parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my substance...

And that Hebrew word... same root for embryo.

Your eyes saw my substance (my embryo), being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them.

We are “fearfully and wonderfully made”, beginning in the womb of our mothers. In the human body there are 30 trillion cells. Those genes are like letters of a divine alphabet. The genetic instruction of the human life spell out the unique characteristics of a new individual. Even in the womb the color of the eyes, the hair, the skin, the facial features, the body types, the qualities even of personality and intelligence are all produced and determined by genetic coding! We are fearfully and wonderfully made by the hand of God!

It’s so easy to personalize this, and rationalize this and compromise this, to speak of the *product of conception*. But the same woman who might speak of the product of conception and an abortion would in the moment a baby were to be laid in her hands cry out, “That’s my baby! My baby!”

Jeremiah 1:5... Jeremiah said, “Before I formed you in the womb, (God speaking) I knew you!” Luke chapter 1, verse 41, Elizabeth spoke of a child, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. And that baby leaped in her womb! There was a prophet in the womb of Elizabeth!

There was a young lady... probably in her early teenage years... unmarried, poor... a peasant, expecting a baby. By our standards in America today she would have been a prime candidate for an abortion. Young, poor, of a minority race, and unmarried. Her name? Mary. The mother of Jesus.

You say, “Pastor, that’s all good and I’m concerned. I agree that it’s wrong. But what can I do?”

Well number one, we cannot say... we must not say, “This is not my problem.” It is our problem. All of us as Christians, as salt and light are responsible. We’re responsible for 5 areas and I mention them in conclusion.

Number 1, get informed...get informed! Read the literature. Study for yourself. I’ve just touched the tip of the iceberg tonight as to the [2 popping sounds on tape] information medically, psychologically, legally and even biblically that is available to us. Get informed about this issue!

Number 2, work and pray for a constitutional amendment that forbids and prohibits abortion. Work and pray to that end now! Today!

Martin Neumuler [sp?], Lutheran pastor in Nazi Germany was speaking of that nationalistic holocaust, the extermination of Jews as well as Gentiles in Nazi Germany. He

said, “You know when they came for the Jews in Germany I didn’t say anything because I wasn’t a Jew.” And he said, “When they came for the Catholics I didn’t say anything because I wasn’t a Catholic. And when they came for the trade unionists I didn’t say anything because I wasn’t a trade unionist.” He said, “When they came for me, there was nobody left to say anything.”

Work and pray.

Number 3, we must teach morality in the home and the church. It’s parent’s responsibility to teach their children personal morality. I object to sex education in the schools because again it is taught in a moral vacuum without biblical and moral principles. It is for the home and the church. And the church, I’m afraid, has abdicated this responsibility. And I pray that we have ways... and I’m sure in our youth ministry, though I’ve not investigated it thoroughly... we have ways of teaching our young people right and wrong and to make the right moral choices in life. Teach morality in the home and in the church. Teach them young.

Number 4, we’re to provide alternatives. It is not enough to pontificate against the evils of abortion if we are not willing to get involved.

Until then may I encourage you as your pastor to personally get involved in some of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers in our area that are already up and running and making a difference. Not only with your volunteerism, but with your personal financial support. Find out who they are, where they are, and if you have questions, contact us here at the office and we can put you on to some.

But we are to provide alternatives. We’re to give compassion and love to those who are facing some of these psychological and emotional and spiritual problems. In West Palm Beach we established a center such as this. We were able to make a difference in thousands of lives.

Number 5, pray, pray, pray for the mercy and patience of Almighty God. “If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves and pray seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land.”

We must pray and beg God for a revival of righteousness. Oh for God to move in the hearts and lives of our judiciary system, our legislators, or governors.

We ought to get informed, by the way, on all the political candidates. And I'll tell you I wouldn't vote for anybody to be dogcatcher who supported abortion. [applause]

Tiny wonder, little human lying still,  
 your hands outstretched.  
 I wonder what you might have been.  
 I wonder what you might have done.  
 Sixteen weeks, that's all you lived.  
 Till they wretched you out of the womb  
 To lie unattended; gasping, stunned.  
 A plastic bag will be your tomb.  
 They weigh your form; record it's length,  
 Perfect tissue, soulless, mute.  
 The life so small was still too much.  
 You died without one loving touch.  
 A spark of existence, now no more.  
 Snuffed out by those who came before.  
 I wonder what you might have been.  
 I wonder what you might have done.

May God help us and may God deliver us, and may God change the hearts of America.

May we pray together?

O God, we stand between life and death, blessing and cursing. May we as Your people on this day choose life. May we choose it with conviction and compassion. May we choose life because you have chosen to give life. May we see all life as sacred and precious to You.

Now, Father, for those who are experiencing loss, and hurt, and grief, who's past may be very painful tonight, I pray that your Holy Spirit will be a comfort. Some who made decisions when they weren't fully informed, some who made decisions before they were Christians that were wrong, God, they admit that it's wrong. But O God, I pray now that You

would remove the hurt and remove the trauma and by the blood of Jesus cover their sin. And we thank You for a wonderful Gospel like that. The grace of Jesus Christ which changes lives.

Now, O God, let us speak for those unborn children, those children who cannot speak for themselves. May we speak before it's too late to speak. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.