



“Caring for an Unwed Mother”

Introduction

Since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in the United States in 1972, more than 62 million children have been aborted in our country.

Globally, between 40-50 million babies are aborted every single year. It’s the leading cause of death in our world. It’s the greatest human rights issue in our lifetime!

But we are standing on the precipice of change:

- Since 2011, fourteen states have passed a Heartbeat Bill, which bans abortion after a heartbeat can be detected in the womb (around 6 weeks).
- These laws effectively stop almost all abortions, because roughly 9 out of 10 abortions are performed after a baby’s heart can be heard.
- Barna Group: 7 out of 10 Americans are in favor of a Heartbeat Bill.
- The Supreme Court may be on the brink of overturning Roe vs. Wade.

We have a long battle ahead of us, and we are not going to sit on the sideline and do nothing. We will fight for the value and dignity of every person, no matter their size, race, age, development, disability, gender or nationality – from conception to the grave.

Question: What we will do if someone in our church gets pregnant and is not married? How will we react? Beyond that, how should we respond to a woman who has already gotten pregnant and experienced an abortion?

Lessons from a Familiar Story (John 8:2-11)

1. The Condition of the Woman

We don’t know much about her. We can only imagine how she must have felt – terrified, afraid for her life, ashamed, humiliated, helpless, and guilty.

2. The Hypocrisy of the Pharisees

- How did they “catch” her in the act of adultery? Was it a trap?
- They used her as a pawn in their scheme to trick Jesus.
- They let the man go scot-free, in violation of Scripture (Lev 20:10; Deut 22:22)
- They made an open spectacle of her and publicly shamed her.
- They demonstrated no love, care or compassion for her at all.
- They were willing to stone her to death to prove a point.

3. The Compassion of Jesus

What did he write on the ground?

- 10 Commandments
- Specific sins the religious leaders had committed that no one knew about
- Names of women they had committed adultery with

They realized if the woman was punished, they deserved to be as well! Jesus was the only one qualified to throw a stone, but look at how he responded to the woman:

- He didn't lash out in anger.
- He was patient, kind and compassionate.
- He thought about his response before he opened his mouth.
- He defended the woman (saved her life).
- Instead of condemning her, he offered her grace.
- But he never excused, ignored, or minimized her sin. He called her to repentance: "Go. From now on sin no more" (v. 11). *Jesus doesn't offer us cheap grace* (Rom 6:1-2).

Abortion in the Church

A sad and painful reality:

- 54% of women having abortions identify themselves as Protestant or Roman Catholic. The *majority* profess some kind of faith in Christ (Alan Guttmacher Institute).
- 52% of women who profess to be Christian and have an abortion never tell anyone in their church about it (CareNet).

How will we respond to women in these circumstances? Four promises we will endeavor to uphold as a church family:

- 1. We will remember the gospel.** (Ps 130:3-4; Rom 2:4)
- 2. We will respond with grace and truth.** (John 1:14)
- 3. We will challenge men to take responsibility for their actions.**
- 4. We will provide help & support in practical ways.**

Personal Testimony

Kim Wybenga – if you would like to contact Kim, email her at kim.wybenga@yahoo.com.

If you (or someone close to you) has experienced an abortion, and you would like support and resources, contact the Pregnancy Care Center (559-237-0683), or talk to one of our pastors.

40 Days for Life

Since the first campaign in 2004, over a million people have participated – representing 19,000 churches in 61 countries around the world... and 18,000 babies have been saved that we know of.

The Spring campaign is March 2 – April 10.

3 ways to get involved:

- 1. Go through our 40 Days for Life Prayer Devotional.**
- 2. Sign up to pray on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood.**
 - 1-hour shifts are available Mondays – Fridays, between 9am-4pm.

3. Attend the red-carpet screening of *The Matter of Life*

Saturday, March 5 | 6pm | Maya Cinemas Fresno 16 | Tickets: \$10

This is an exclusive event presented by JARON Ministries International. Special guest, filmmaker Tracy Robinson will be joining us.

***To sign up or get more information, go to:
www.campusbiblechurch.com/40days***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

1. What is your sense about the future of abortion in our country? Do you believe it will become illegal? Why or why not?
2. Compare and contrast the way Jesus and the religious leaders responded to the woman caught in adultery.
3. Do you think an unmarried pregnant woman would feel welcome, loved and supported at Campus Bible Church? Do you think a Christian woman would feel safe telling someone at our church that they've had an abortion?
4. What struck you the most about Kim Wybenga's testimony?
5. In what ways are you planning to participate in the upcoming 40 Days for Life?