

VOYAGE CHURCH

LIVE THE LOVE

A Letter from Pastor Glenn Adams

I'm writing this letter to my fellow Voyagers in response to the historic decision by the Supreme Court of the United States of America which overturns the ruling of "Roe vs. Wade." This decision removes the federal right to an abortion and returns abortion laws to the states, some of which plan to restrict or ban abortion completely.

On Sunday July 10, 2022, I preached a sermon on the Image of God (Imago Dei) as it relates to how we should be treating other people both inside and outside the church. Genesis 1:26-27 is one of the foundational truths that we as Christians hold to as it portrays the sanctity of human life.

The scriptures show God is miraculously involved in life in the womb, from Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Mary, the mother of our Lord. God makes the claim that He is Lord of all creation, and that includes what happens with our bodies. Scripture teaches that we belong to God, body and soul, not to ourselves (1 Cor 6:19-20), and our thinking about our bodies should be based on biblical responsibility to honor God with them. Our views about sexuality, the creation of life, the family, and life should be framed by God's declared Word that seeks to honor God's design and creational intent.

At the heart of the abortion debate stands the foundational teaching of the Imago Dei. Attacking the unborn is dishonoring and sinning (Gen 9:6) against the

image of God since all life is created in His image (Genesis 1:26-28), including the life developing in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16). All life is precious and was created by God. So, I humbly rejoice in the Supreme Court ruling as it will surely save countless infant lives.

Even though we should give thanks to God for this moment in history, we should not lose sight of the fact that the Imago Dei, doesn't just apply to infants in the womb, but to all human beings. We should be equally passionate about seeking to love, support, and care for the dignity and worth of all people even once they are born (James 3:9, Psalm 8:4-5). We should seek to promote life from the womb to the tomb in an attempt to incorporate a complete "whole life" agenda.

Therefore, any forms of injustice, discrimination, racism or degradation must be viewed through the lens of the Imago Dei (Micah 6:8). The same passion that we applied to advocating for the rights of the unborn should equally be applied to those who have been demeaned of value, respect and worth as fellow image bearers.

It is time for us to truly live the love in a moment of great cultural tension in our nation. We need to proclaim boldly with our words and actions the gospel of Jesus Christ and the free gift of forgiveness He offers to all who come to him. And while we are sharing the message of love, let us not forget to demonstrate overwhelming grace and compassion to those who have experienced abortion, as well as kindness to those who believe differently than we do on this issue.

Lastly, we should seek to support women caught in these kinds of painful situations by giving to and serving in the many ministries that love and serve women who feel like they have no other options, such as Alternatives in Kalamazoo. Women should never have to endure the challenges of unplanned pregnancy alone. We, the called out ones of God, should come alongside those in need through spiritual and tangible support. We should show real discipleship by moving past our own concerns for self and be the family of God to them by opening our hearts, homes, wallets, tables, and schedules to care for the least of these. We should be a church where healing and restoration can be found in Jesus' name.

Living the Love is costly (John 15:13). It goes against the grain of our culture and world (Matt 16:26). But my hope and prayer is that Voyage is known as a church that radically loves on all people as Jesus has so radically loved us.

Keep living the Love,

Pastor Glenn Adams