

Series: **Aliens 3.0**
Today's Title: **"Abortion"**
May 5, 2024 – *Selected passages*

Objective: To help people know what the Bible teaches about unborn babies and abortion.

AWANA – Another year of AWANA came to a close this past Wednesday night – with the AWANA awards night – where the kids received their awards for the verses they memorized throughout the year.

Asher Nichols and Mikayla Lingana – both received Timothy Awards.

Also...I'm pleased to announce that the Associate Pastor Search Team, which has been working to find an Associate Pastor since August of 2023, has found a candidate, and the elders have agreed.

His name is Justin Elwell, his wife, Amber, and kids, Jadyn (15), Jordan (12), Austin (7), Addison (6).

We have invited him – and he has accepted – to candidate on the weekend of **May 30 – June 2**.

Here is a 3-minute introduction video from Justin and Amber Elwell.

Opening prayer

Sue Stallard with 'Hands of Hope' is here today.

After the service she will be at the 'Hands of Hope' table in the lobby.

If you want more info about ‘Hands of Hope’ and their work – or if you have had an abortion and need help, they are here to help.

I’m sure you’re aware that AZ has been at the center of the abortion debate in the country over the past 4 weeks or so.

On April 9, the AZ supreme court upheld the state’s original abortion law, making abortion illegal in AZ except to save the life of the mother.

This past week, the AZ house and senate voted to repeal that original abortion law.

90 days after the current legislative session ends, the more recent abortion law, **SB 1164** will go into effect – which prohibits abortions after 15 weeks gestational age.

As we’ve mentioned before... the issue will be further decided in this November’s election.

There is a very radical initiative on that ballot this November which will enshrine abortion in the state constitution with virtually no limits at all – it will remove parental notification laws of a minor seeking an abortion, it will remove medical safeguards from abortion procedures, among other things.

I would strongly encourage you to visit **itgoestoofar.com** (Display site & QR code) to get educated on what this proposed amendment to the state constitution will actually do.

It is not clear what the pro-life side will put forward – if anything – for the November election.

So, this is a very current and pressing issue in our state – one with life and death consequences for thousands and thousands of unborn babies.

Abortion is a political issue – but more than anything else, it's an issue about human life – and the sacred nature of human life – or who has the power to end the life of the unborn.

The political and ethical question of abortion is this:

Is a pre-born baby alive – a person?

If they are, then we need to treat the pre-born as any other person – with protections and rights.

If they aren't, then what exactly is a pre-born baby?

- At what point do they become a living person?
- At birth – or some other point in the pregnancy?

What should we call the preborn child? Fetus? Preborn child? Baby? Embryo?

We could list many other questions that abortion raises, but let's focus our time today on a few, very important questions for us to consider.

1. How should Christian's view this and other issues?
2. What does the Bible say about the pre-born and abortion?

3. What do you do if you've had an abortion – or know someone who has – or you encouraged someone to have an abortion?

Developing the mind of Christ.

One of the most challenging things for Christians today is to separate themselves from the thought patterns and philosophies of today's world.

It is essential – if we are going to live for Christ – live as 'aliens and strangers in this world' (1 Peter 2:11) – we must think differently.

The Apostle Paul makes this very clear.

Romans 12:2

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

There are definite "patterns" of thought and philosophy in "this world", and it's crucial that we recognize what those are – and replace those with the truth of the Bible – the truth of Christ.

In past decades Christians understood the importance of Biblical thinking, but we've seen a great decline in Christian thought over the past decades.

According to a recent study from the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University...

6 out of 10 Americans reject the idea that 'human life is sacred.'

“A majority of Americans are also unclear on the Bible’s view of abortion. More than one-in-three (37%) say the Bible is ambiguous about abortion, while nearly another 1/4 of adults admit they do not know (22%). Almost one-in-three *evangelicals* also say the Bible is ambiguous on abortion.”

(<https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/AWVI-2020-Release-07-Perceptions-of-Value-of-Life.pdf>)

It shouldn’t surprise us that Americans – unbelievers – are unclear on what the Bible says about abortion.

It’s that last part that concerns me: 1 in 3 evangelicals – around 30% - say the Bible is ambiguous on abortion!!!

I’m not sure what Bible they’re reading – because my Bible isn’t ambiguous at all!

I’m pretty sure it’s the pulpit in their church that is ambiguous – not their Bible!!

I want you to know – and then to obey / apply – what the Bible says about how we think.

Philippians 2:5

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”

Another term used for this is to cultivate a Biblical Worldview.

See the world – look at life – through the lens of Scripture.

2 Corinthians 10:5

“We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...”

What I want you to know – what I hope to show you this morning - is that the Bible is crystal clear on the issue of abortion.

There is no ambiguity at all as to the Bible’s teaching on this topic. Our thoughts on this should align with Biblical teaching.

The sacred nature of human life.

I won’t spend much time on this point because I have covered this in previous sermons – especially the sermons on April 7 & 14.

But let’s cover this quickly once again.

The sacred nature of human life is not based in what we do – it’s not based in our abilities – our appearance – or accomplishments.

Our value – our sacred nature is due to the image of God in each of us.

Genesis 1:27

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

The image of God in each person is the reason God instituted capital punishment, which we read in **Genesis 9**.

Genesis 9:6

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image.”

It’s the reason God gave the commandment against murder – the shedding of innocent blood.

Exodus 20:13

“You shall not murder.”

But beyond our value and the sacred nature of human life, we see that God has a plan for each person – even before they are born.

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

The Bible’s teaching is clear – the unborn is a real person – with full personhood.

God has plans for their life – and a purpose for them even before they take their first breath.

Psalms 139:13-16

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

God is intimately involved in the conception and development of each of us.

Job 31:15

“Did not He who made me in the womb make him? And did not One fashion us in the womb?”

And He has a plan for your life.

Galatians 1:15

“But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace...”

Because human life is sacred, it must be protected from harm.

Since each person is an image bearer of God – and He has a plan for each person – each person deserves the full protection of society – of the governing authorities which God has placed over society for the purpose of punishing evil and rewarding good. (Romans 13)

Human life begins at conception, which makes abortion murder.

Those who are pro-abortion almost always use the terms:

‘Women’s healthcare’

‘Reproductive health’

‘Women’s rights’

They have been successful – for many reasons – at defining the terms of the argument.

But the reality is, these are dishonest terms.
They are lies about the real issue – deceptive.

Isaiah 5:20a

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil...”

The abortion debate in our nation often ignores the primary issue - the foundational issue - which is: ***‘When does life begin?’***

If life begins at birth – then abortion would be fine.
But - if life begins at conception – or at some point during the pregnancy, then aborting the baby would be killing an innocent human life – murder.

Some people claim they don’t know the answer to ‘When life begins’ – if that is truly their honest position, then shouldn’t their position be one of caution – to not support abortion if they’re not sure if the baby someone is aborting is a human life or not?

We actually know the answer to the question of when life begins. And we know it without any doubt.

We are confident in the answer because of what we know from science and biology – and from the Bible’s clear statements on the unborn.

If you don’t believe in the authority and reliability of the Bible – then know this:

First, biology and science clearly reveal the beginning of life.

We know that life begins at conception – when the sperm fertilizes the egg.

We know that the fertilized egg – called a zygote – begins to divide rapidly in the days following fertilization - even before the zygote implants in the wall of the uterus, where the baby will grow throughout the gestation period.

(<https://www.verywellfamily.com/what-is-a-zygote-2796031>, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/prenatal-care/art-20045302>)

Biologically...scientifically...life begins at conception.

All genetic information - all DNA - is present at the moment of conception.

The zygote contains all 46 necessary chromosomes – 23 from the sperm – 23 from the egg.

The only things that change from conception to birth is:

Size of the child...

Level of development (maturity)...

Environment in which the child is living...

D - The degree of **D**ependency the child has on mom and dad.

This is known as the **SLED** argument - used to promote and explain the logic & science of the pro-life position.

Would you kill someone because of their size?

How about their level of maturity? (age or mentally disabled?)

Where they live?

Their level of dependency on others?

Bill Maher video clip – abortion is murder!

Second, the Bible is clear on when life begins.

For me, Scripture is the ultimate authority.

As Christ-followers - we must know what the Bible says – especially on topics this crucial to life and death.

Scripture is clear regarding the personhood of the unborn.

We've already looked at **Psalm 139, Job 31, and Jeremiah 1:5.**

I want to look at 2 other passages in the O.T. which reveal God's thoughts about the personhood of the preborn baby.

Genesis 25:22-23

“But the two children struggled with each other in her womb.

So she went to ask the LORD about it. “Why is this happening to me?” she asked.

And the LORD told her, “The sons in your womb will become two nations. From the very beginning, the two nations will be rivals.

One nation will be stronger than the other; and your older son will serve your younger son.”

The word translated “children” – they are preborn in this passage – and the Hebrew word here is the normal word for ‘son’ or plural, ‘children’ – used more than 4,900 times in the O.T.

The specific wording in the O.T. draws no difference between a pre-born child and a young child.

Exodus 21:22-24

“Now suppose two men are fighting, and in the process they accidentally strike a pregnant woman so she gives birth prematurely. If no further injury results, the man who struck the woman must pay the amount of compensation the woman’s husband demands and the judges approve.

But if there is further injury, the punishment must match the injury: a life for a life, an eye for an eye...”

In this passage, we see the penalties imposed for harming the child of a pregnant woman – or if harm comes to the woman – the penalties are the same – for harm done to the woman – or to the preborn child. *“Both are treated as persons, and both deserve the full protection of the law.”* (Voting as a Christian, The Social Issues, by Wayne Grudem, p. 38-39)

In both Hebrew and Greek, there is one word used to refer to a baby in the womb, or a young child.

(Hebrew: *geber* - Job 3:3; Ex. 10:11; Deut. 22:5; Judges 5:30 or *ben* – Genesis 25:22 - Greek: *brephos* - Luke 1:41, 44; 18:15; 1 Peter 2:2 - Ethix, by Sean McDowell, p. 93; Voting as a Christian, The Social Issues, by Wayne Grudem, p. 38-39)

These verses make it clear that the modern-day view that the developing baby / fetus is *‘just a blob of tissue’* is in contrast to the divine testimony of Scripture.

In his book The Great Evangelical Disaster, Francis Schaeffer said:

“A high view of Scripture and a high view of life go hand-in-hand. You cannot be faithful to what the Bible teaches about the value of human life and be in favor of abortion.” (“The Great Evangelical Disaster”, by Francis Schaeffer, p. 68)

As “aliens” - or “strangers” in this world - our thoughts - our views must be informed by Scripture - shaped by Biblical truth.

Jesus offers forgiveness and hope.

Before you can receive the forgiveness of Jesus, you have to confess your sins to Him.

You have to admit what you’ve done – and then you are able to receive His full and total cleansing from your sin.

Let me allow Scripture to tell you about the love and forgiveness Jesus wants to give you.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Jeremiah 31:34

“I’ll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I’ll forget they ever sinned!”

Isaiah 1:18

“Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool.”

Psalm 103:12

“He has removed our sins as far from us
as the east is from the west.”

1 Corinthians 6:11

“And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were
sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
and by the Spirit of our God.”

Apply it...

Jesus calls us to proclaim His message of love and truth
- His message of meaning and purpose for each person.
What you and I stand for - what we support and vote for
- that way we think about others and treat others - does
it reflect what Scripture says?

1. Think Biblically.

Develop a Biblical worldview.

Use Scripture as your guide to how you will think
about issues and how you will live.

2. Value life as God values life.

Innocent human life is sacred – because of the image
of God in each person.

3. View life as God views life.

Life begins from conception – and the preborn baby
is just as important as an adult.

4. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins.

Admit your sins to Him.

Believe in His salvation – the forgiveness He offers you through faith.

Commit your life to Him – live according to His Word – His truth.

Close in prayer