

800 Pound Gorilla (Week Three)

April 28th, 2024

“ABORTION”

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

REVIEW:

- Our goal: To equip our people and kids to be “*ready for the world!*”
- How do we warn people away from sin that harms them, but not cause further hurt to those who have already made the mistake? It’s a tight line that must be walked.

INFORMATION WAR: There has always been one.

- So many lies, including:
 - There is no God.
 - If there is a God, He doesn’t care about absolute right or wrong.
 - People can do what they want. For many, personal freedom is of the highest value and if someone tells them they can’t have what they want, then the other person is the problem.
 - Personal freedom leads to happiness unless someone’s personal happiness takes another’s away.
 - **Statement:** “*Unless my decision harms someone else, I should be allowed to do what I want.*”
The problem: We don’t agree on what it means to harm someone else.
 - Truth is not what corresponds with reality, but rather, what the individual feels ought to be.
- Rejecting the truth leads to consequences, including pain.
- Our reaction to pain caused by sin is not to repent, but to eliminate the pain, not the cause. For example, sexual sin leads to consequences, so people seek something that allows sexual sin but with fewer/no consequences.
 - This week, we are talking about **ABORTION**.

REVIEW THE TRUTH ABOUT TRUTH: There is a God, and He cares about the truth!

- **2 Timothy 3:12-17.**

TRUTH #1: GOD CREATED A PERFECT WORLD, BUT SIN CREATED A BROKEN WORLD.

- The devil, sinful nature, a culture designed to entice us to sin...

TRUTH #2: WE ALL HAVE SINFUL IMPULSES/DESIRES, AND AS WE GIVE INTO THEM, THEY DESTROY US.

- As we give into these impulses and desires, we are changed. Our hearts become hardened; we feel justified.
- **Galatians 5:16-21.**

TRUTH #3: WHEN WE GIVE INTO SIN, IT LEADS TO MORE THAN JUST HELL; IT LEADS TO DEATH IN EVERY SENSE.

- **James 1:13-15.**

ABORTION IS JUST AN ESCAPE FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF SINFUL BEHAVIOR.

- Rather than repentance, it’s “*doubling down.*”

ABORTION STATISTICS IN AMERICA:

- Just in 2020 alone: 930,160 abortions.¹
- From 1973 to 2021: over 60 million abortions.²

¹<https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/11/abortion-incidence-and-service-availability-united-states-2020#:~:text=We%20compare%20these%20findings%20to,which%20collected%20information%20for%202017.&text=We%20documented%20930%2C160%20abortions%20in,in%20a%20majority%20of%20states.>

² <https://nrlc.org/uploads/factsheets/FS01AbortionintheUS.pdf>

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- The reasons behind women’s decisions to abort, according to a Guttmacher Institute Survey:³
 - 74% Having a baby would dramatically change my life.
 - 73% I can’t afford a baby right now.
 - 48% I have completed my childbearing.
- Most abortions happen in the first trimester and usually around 6 to 8 weeks, at the earliest.

3.5% OF ABORTIONS ARE FOR EXTREME ISSUES LIKE THE HEALTH OF THE MOTHER AND IN THE CASE OF RAPE OR INCEST.

- These calculations are based on statistics provided by medical journals and government surveys in the United States and show the “*hard cases*” are much rarer than most people believe.⁴
 - 1.14% of abortions were done to save the life or health of the mother.
 - 1.28% of abortions were done for the “*Mental Health*” of the mother.
 - 0.39% were done in cases of rape or incest.
 - 0.69% were done for fetal birth defects.
 - **3.5% were done for all the hard cases combined.**

SURVEY SAYS: 96.5% OF ABORTIONS ARE DONE FOR ISSUES OF CONVENIENCE.

- Most abortions are a response to sex outside of marriage. Rather than repent and seek God’s Will, women “*double down*” in their sin.
- **What are the reason(s) behind a willingness to kill a baby?** Ignorance and willful disobedience.

THE WORLD WILL RESPOND, “*But life doesn’t begin until birth.*”

WHAT SCIENCE HAS PROVEN ABOUT A BABY (NOT FETUS) IN THE WOMB:

- Many doctors and scholars teach that life begins at conception (See also *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments* by Randy Alcorn). Here are just a couple:⁵

Dr. Alfred Bongioanni, Professor of pediatrics and obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania, at a US Senate committee hearing: “I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception... I submit that human life is present throughout the entire sequence from conception to adulthood and that any interruption at any point throughout this time constitutes a termination of human life...”

Dr. Jerome Lejeune, University of Descartes: “This is no longer a matter of taste or opinion and not a metaphysical contention; it is plain experimental evidence... Each individual has a very neat beginning at conception.”

THE WORLD HAS DOWNPLAYED THE FACT THAT THE BABY IS A SEPARATE HUMAN LIFE, EVEN IN THE WOMB.

- A separate heart beat? 21 days.
- Separate distinct brain waves? 40 days (That means both thinking and feeling).

THE WORLD WILL RESPOND, “The baby’s life isn’t as important because it relies on its mother for life.”

- Many say, “*If the child can’t live without the mother, then it’s not truly human.*” But a one-year-old cannot live without its mother.
- Many seniors can’t live without help.
- “*I am not financially ready, and this will end my personal dreams for my future.*”
- “*People will be disappointed in me; I’ll be looked down on.*”

THE WORLD WILL RESPOND, “The baby’s life isn’t as important because it’s just another animal, and we need population control.”

- Many view humans as an invasive species that needs to be controlled.

GOD’S WORD SAYS, “*Life is a gift from God!*”

³ Guttmacher Institute, “Reasons US Women Have Abortions: Quantitative and Qualitative Perspectives,” <https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/pubs/psrh/ful/3711005.pdf>

⁴ Human Life International, “Why Women Get Abortions,” <https://www.hli.org/resources/why-women-abort/>

⁵ Dr. Vincent Rue, as quoted in *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments* by Randy Alcorn, p. 195.

- Humans are more important than any other form of life.
- God’s Word tells us that God is the creator of life, life is precious, and it is given by God.
- **Genesis 9:6; Psalm 139:13-16; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Luke 1:41.**

GOD’S PERSPECTIVE IN THE HARD CASES:

- He has a plan for the child, and if you choose to walk with God, He intervenes.
- He has a plan for you—to wake you up and help you become all He would have you to be. Children help us understand God and ourselves.

IN THE HARD CASES, PEOPLE FORGET TO ADD GOD INTO THE EQUATION.

- What people forget: God can and often does intervene and do something different than the doctors expect.
- A child with special needs is still a child, and God loves them. They are a blessing! They change us as we become more servant minded.
- In cases of rape and incest, many great people have come from those situations. Adoptive parents are blessed to have them. The sin of the rapist does not affect the value of the child.

LET’S CONSIDER THE EVERYDAY CASES:

CHILDREN ARE A BLESSING FROM THE LORD—AS GOD DEFINES A BLESSING.

- Convenience issues like, *“I don’t have any money.”* or *“It will keep me from my dreams of...”*
- In some cases, it is better for the child to be born and adopted into a Christian family that has been waiting for years.
- **Psalm 127:3-5.**

IN ALL CASES...Mothers may hear in their head *“I blew it!”* or *“People will judge me!”* or *“Take the easy way out!”*

- Abortion is not easier; the pain it causes is long-lasting.
- Those who truly know Jesus won’t judge.

REMEMBER: THE DEVIL HAS ALWAYS DOWNPLAYED THE VALUE OF CHILDREN.

- Offered in fire to fertility gods to bless their crops and livestock (Jeremiah 19:5). Killing was for personal convenience.
- There is so much Scripture about teaching and protecting our children because the enemy seeks to destroy them.
- The enemy destroys the hearts of those who choose to sin—it’s an ongoing struggle for those who abort children.

GOD KNOWS THAT TO “DOUBLE DOWN” ON SIN WILL HURT YOU.

- There are many post-abortion therapy and support groups that exist which testifies to the reality of abortions having potentially harmful psychological effects.
- Women who’ve had an abortion are 9 times more likely to attempt suicide.^{5,6}
- Possible consequences of abortion (*some women may experience fewer than others*): regret, grief, sadness, anger, bitterness, guilt, shame, sense of loneliness or isolation, loss of self-confidence and lowered self-esteem, self-condemnation, insomnia, recurring dreams, nightmares, relationship issues, suicidal thoughts or feelings, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, sense of loss and emptiness, uncontrollable weeping, helplessness and hopelessness, alcohol and chemical dependencies, anniversary reactions, flashbacks, fetal fantasies, numbness, painful re-experiencing of the abortion, sexual dysfunction, insecurity, distrust, hostility toward self and others, communication impairment and/or restriction, preoccupation, confusion or distorted thinking, and other psychological symptoms.^{5,6}

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE:

- Politically, we take murder as serious as God does. It’s not a choice we have the right to make or condone. We vote and do what we can to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves, but we do it with respect and love. We don’t fight like the devil for the things of God.

⁶American Pregnancy Association, “Abortion Emotional Side Effects,” <https://americanpregnancy.org/unplanned-pregnancy/abortion-emotional-effects/>
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- When someone has disappointed us (contributed to an unplanned pregnancy) or done the wrong thing, we step in to help, to encourage, to support with words and actions.
- If someone has had an abortion, we carefully point them back to Jesus for forgiveness, and/or remind them that they are forgiven.

DISCIPLE-MAKING & PERSONAL RESOURCES:

- **Books:** *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments* by Randy Alcorn | *The Atonement Child* by Francine Rivers | *The Case for Life* by Scott Klusendorf
- **Studies:** *Forgiven and Set Free* by Linda Cochrane | *Surrendering the Secret* by Pat Layton

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS TO REFLECT AND DISCUSS:

Passages to consider: **Psalm 139:1-16; Proverbs 31:8-9; 1 John 1:9**

1. What from the sermon was impactful to you?
2. Read **Genesis 1** and **Psalm 139:1-16** two or three times. What is God saying about Himself and about humans?
3. In what ways does a Biblical view of a Creator God and the value of human beings differ from the way the world around you sees how life works?
4. Think about how you have experienced forgiveness. How has it changed you, and how has it changed how you see others?
5. What are you discovering about hard topics, grace, love, and truth?
6. How could you be a part of having a voice for the voiceless and help the hurting? Brainstorm and share ideas. What role could you have in adoption, foster care, crisis pregnancy, or post-abortion recovery? Take some time to prayerfully consider and listen to what God is showing you.

Passages to Prepare: **Genesis 1-2; Psalm 8**