



Sermon Notes

A Christian Response to Abortion *Various Passages*

July 6, 2008

Tim Strickland

Psalm 139:13-14 ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Jeremiah 1:4-5 ⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 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."

Judges 13:3-5 ³ And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴ Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, ⁵ for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

Luke 1:41-44 ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 2:21 ²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder.

Introduction: They Desire a Better Country

On Canada Day (July 1), it was announced from Ottawa that the Order of Canada will be given to Henry Morgentaler, Canada's most famous abortionist.

- Responses have ranged from praise to shock to disgust
- The Order of Canada's official motto, which is engraved on the medals, is a quote from the Bible. The quote is from Hebrews 11:16 where it says *DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM*, or in English, "*They desire a better country*". "They" refers to Bible heroes such as Noah and Abraham
- Important questions surrounding abortion are once again being asked.

Today's Message: A Christian Response to Abortion

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Page 2

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1. What does the Bible say about abortion?

a. The Bible plainly teaches that a baby in the womb is a human being, formed by God

• **Psalm 139:13-14** ¹³ *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

• **Jeremiah 1:4-5** ⁴ *Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 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."*

• **Luke 2:21** ²¹ *And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

• See also Judges 13:3-5, Luke 1:41-44

b. The Bible plainly teaches that murder is wrong

• **Exodus 20:13** *You shall not murder.* (6th Commandment)

c. Therefore, the Bible plainly teaches that abortion is wrong

• It is never right to murder an innocent human being

2. What do voices in our culture say about abortion?

a. Pro-choice activists say abortion is all about women's rights

- Right to choose
- Reproductive rights
- Right to have freedom from (male) oppression
- Right to have sexual freedom

b. Sciences says that an unborn baby is a whole human being from conception. This well-known & non-controversial fact can be confirmed by "virtually any scientific textbook on human biology". *Source: Boa & Bowman, Unchanging Faith in a Changing World 1997, p246/360 n41.*

c. Philosophy

- There is philosophical debate about when an unborn baby becomes a person
- Question: If our culture is uncertain about the timing of personhood in the womb, what should we do?
- Answer: Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft's "quadrilemma"

1. It is *not* a person, and we *know* that, then abortion is permissible
2. It *is* a person, and we *know* that, then abortion is murder
3. It *is* a person, and we do *not* know that, then abortion is manslaughter
4. It is *not* a person, and we do *not* know that, then abortion is criminal negligence. *Source: Kreeft, Making Choices for Everyday Moral Decisions, 1990, p119, referenced in Boa & Bowman, p248.*

With uncertainty about personhood, the right choice is no abortion.

3. How should we as Christians respond to abortion?

a. Prophetically

1. Stand up for the rights of innocent unborn children who cannot stand up for themselves
 - **Proverbs 31:8** *"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. (NIV)*
2. Always speak with gentleness and respect
 - **Eph. 4:26** *In your anger do not sin (NIV)*
 - **2 Tim. 2:24-25** ²⁴ *And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,*

b. Pastorally

1. Stand up for women (and men) who need our help on issues related to pregnancy & abortion, not our condemnation
 - Show the same love and heart of reconciliation that you would want others to show to you, if your sins were publicly known - Matthew 7:12
 - Show people that there is true forgiveness in the Lord – 1 John 1:9, Rom 5:8-11
2. Offer real choices to women (and men) who feel like they have no choice but abortion
 - Loving support
 - A place to stay
 - Referral to counseling / crisis pregnancy care
 - Financial assistance
3. End the culture of self-righteousness that persists in some churches and/or individuals - Luke 18:9-14

4. Is there hope for our nation on the issue of abortion?

a. Nothing is impossible with God

- **Luke 1:35-37** ³⁵ *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."*

b. Achieving full protection for unborn babies may be a long struggle

- The example of Wilberforce & the abolishment of slavery
- Demographics are on the pro-life side

Our Response

1. Repent of our sin and pray for our nation. - 2 Chronicles 7:14
2. Speak the truth in love on behalf of the unborn. Prov 31:8, 2 Tim 2:24-25
3. Be a loving support for women (and men) who need help dealing with unexpected pregnancy and / or post abortion grief. Mt. 7:12, John 13:35

Helpful Interest Resources:

- www.prowomanprolife.org – a non-religious approach to ending abortion, by a group of young Canadian women
- www.abortionincanada.ca – as the title suggests, helpful information about abortion in Canada

For help with pregnancy care, post abortion care, or general information:

Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre www.pregcare.com
24 hour hotline: 403-269-3110
All services are strictly confidential and free of charge.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact our church for help with issues related to pregnancy and abortion. We will offer Biblical help and love to help you honour the Lord in your situation. Please let us show God's love and care for you in your time of need. Your confidentiality will be maintained.

Tim Strickland, Sr. Pastor.

Questions for Application

1. How would you help if a woman came to you expressing that she was pregnant and did not know what do?
2. How can self-righteousness of others discourage a woman from seeking help or perhaps even encourage her to have an abortion?
3. Discuss other issues relating to abortion that arise from today's message.
4. Pray together for forgiveness (starting with our own sins) and healing in our land. Pray that God would change people's hearts to see the value of an unborn baby. Pray for people who face shame, pain and grief because of abortion.

Questions, Comments? - inthebeginning@look.ca

If you have questions or comments about today's message, please drop me an email to the address above. Thanks, Tim



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