

The Life Giving Church

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What is the Church?

The word "Church" comes from the Greek word *ekklesia* which is defined as "an assembly," or "called-out ones." We don't "go" to Church, we ARE the Church. The Church has nothing to do with a building and everything to do with the people who gather in that building. In Romans 16:5 it says, "... greet the church that is in their house." Paul refers to the Church in their house - not a church building, but a body of believers. More specifically, the Church is made up of individuals who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God and make up the Body of Christ.

The Church is the Body of Christ, of which He is the head. Ephesians 1:22-23 says, "And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." The body of Christ is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost (Acts, chapter 2) until Christ's return.

The Body of Christ is comprised of two aspects:

The universal Church consists of all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink" (1 Corinthians 12:13). This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ and has received the Spirit of Christ as evidence. The universal Church of God is all those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

The local church is described in Galatians 1:1-2: "Paul, an apostle ... and all the brothers with me, to the churches in Galatia." Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches - what we call local churches. Individual churches, whether Baptist, Lutheran, Catholic, non-denominational, etc., are local churches, small members or branches of the universal church. The universal church is comprised of all those who belong to Christ and who have trusted Him for salvation.

The Church is made up of individuals - men, women and children. The Bible intends men, women and children to exist and grow in families and communities dedicated to embracing and living out God's word. The moral fibre, the character and the sexual integrity of these groups are under savage attack. When those who attend a local church are open to teaching, guidance and correction, they grow in their knowledge, fear and admonition of the Lord.

The Church becomes a place of refuge, a hospital for the sick, a school where we learn and a community from which we receive consolation, encouragement and strength. When the Men and women and children who attend a church insist on bringing their worldly 'baggage' with them and refuse to be admonished and refuse to learn and refuse to be doers of the Word instead of hearers of the Word, that community becomes sick and unhealthy. If it continues without correction, it ceases to be a church but becomes merely a group of people sitting in the same room.

Where is the Church?

The Church exists in every society. You can travel the world and find the Church in every one of the 195 sovereign nations that exist today.

The Church Under Attack

- Christian ministries are being forced to remove portraits of Christ and the Ten Commandments
- Catholic Charities in Illinois shut down its adoption services rather than place children with same-sex couples as the state required.
- A court clerk in New York was told to issue same-sex marriage licenses, despite religious reservations.
- The FACT Act in California would force all Pregnancy Centers to inform the women they serve how to obtain contraception and abortions.
- A 19 year Navy Chaplain veteran was accused of failing "to show tolerance and respect" in private counseling sessions regarding issues pertaining to faith, marriage and sexuality, specifically homosexuality and pre-marital sex, and removed from that position because of "unsatisfactory performance of duty."

The persecution of Christians in parts of the world is at near "genocide" levels, according to a report ordered by Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

There is an increasing hostility, intolerance and attack against religious freedom, and specifically Christian beliefs and values in the United States. In current American culture, it seems we are free to be a Christian as long as we don't actually live out our faith, vote our faith, take a stand in relation to our faith or believe others should embrace our faith.

In other words, keep your faith private and out of the public realm. It must be irrelevant to social issues and concerns. But now it's not enough that we must keep our beliefs out of the public square. The current push is for Christians to be forced to embrace and condone values and behaviors even if they are against our most deeply held Biblical convictions and beliefs.

Now we are told we must provide services for same sex marriages, our taxes must pay for birth-control pills, even when they are abortifacient and we must provide for abortions through insurance as 'reproductive health.'" More and more, the government is forcing believers to choose between following their faith and following the law. The greatest flash point is the one between the Church defending the sanctity of life, and the government defending and promoting abortion.

The embrace by our government and by our society of a culture of death, and its amplification by an all pervasive media, has caused sinful, immoral and harmful beliefs to multiply through our culture.

The Church Responds

The attack against the sanctity of life is unprecedented. Given this unprecedented attack on life, there is a call for an unprecedented response by God's people—the Church. And all around the world, the Church is responding to this assault against life. One of, if not the primary practical response to the killing of innocent babies has been the creation, establishment and multiplication of Crisis Pregnancy Centers. These pregnancy ministries were birthed as a direct response to the legalization of abortion and the multiplication of abortion clinics. These ministries are an oasis where the truth and hope that can only be found in Christ is shared with those women (and men) facing an unexpected pregnancy and considering a life or death decision.

They receive medical information on their developing child, are often offered the ability to see their child for the first time through an ultrasound and are provided the hope that comes from knowing they are not alone while going through what they perceive as a crisis. All these services are provided free of charge and are a result of believers pouring themselves into a battle which they believe is the most important moral issue of our time. Their quest to defend and promote the sanctity of human life needs to be a church-driven, church-supported initiative. These isolated islands of life are surrounded by an ever growing culture of death that stops at nothing

to encourage the killing of preborn babies. This culture is emboldened by an educational system that trumpets the value of 'Reproductive Health' and which is fueled by a sex-saturated media and protected by a court system that values the right to choose abortion over the right to life. The culture of death has its foundations firmly entrenched in the lies promoted by the father of lies—Satan—and his desire to see God and the truth found in His word driven out of every corner of our nation.

There are over 500 Crisis Pregnancy Centers internationally and over 2,300 Crisis Pregnancy Centers in the U.S. Crisis Pregnancy Centers are a vital part of the Church in the community.

What is a Crisis Pregnancy Center?

It is not enough to ask a woman not to abort her child; we must recognize and help her deal with the circumstances which produced the crisis. Therefore, we work to provide her practical, concrete support systems that will enable her to carry through with the right decision. There must be deeds of compassion and physical assistance to assure her physical and emotional support. For this reason, the Lord has lifted up the ministry of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers

A crisis pregnancy center is a non-profit center or clinic which primarily serves pregnant women and mothers of infants. The majority of these Centers were birthed through the Church and share Christ at every opportunity. They do not provide or refer for abortions. They do not charge for most of their services. Pregnancy centers come in two types. The first is a traditional crisis pregnancy center or pregnancy resource center. They offer pregnancy tests and prenatal vitamins. They often provide numerous social services, including parenting classes, options counseling, baby supplies and other financial aid.

The second type is a Pregnancy Medical Clinic. These are licensed clinics working under the direction of an M.D. Medical services provided vary from clinic to clinic, but often include ultrasounds, on-site prenatal exams and/or STD testing. CPCs want to help women, no matter what their circumstance, not only the abortion-minded, but also women who have chosen adoption or parenting, women whose babies have already been born and women struggling with a prior abortion. CPCs utilize volunteers. All CPC volunteers undergo training to ensure that they are qualified to assist women. CPCs work to empower women to make the best choice for themselves and their babies, whether this means raising a child or placing him or her up for adoption.

The CPC of Greater Phoenix - Competing for Every Life

Today we are witnessing what can be legitimately called a war on preborn children. In the face of this 21st century holocaust, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix—through our four Choices Pregnancy Centers—compete for every life by offering compassionate care and assistance to women and families. Arizona is the sixth largest and one of the fastest growing states in the U.S. CPC's primary mission field or ministry sphere is the Greater Phoenix metro area. Approximately 67% of the over 12,000 Arizona abortions occur in the Greater Phoenix area.

The CPC of Greater Phoenix is well led, fiscally responsible and highly efficient. We stretch every dollar by utilizing a well trained, well educated group of volunteers including high level medical volunteers. We are one of the best known, largest and well managed pregnancy centers in the nation. We serve 'the least of these,' which includes ministering to an underserved, poor and marginalized clientele—all at no cost.

Show Client Video

We are on the front lines of fighting perhaps the greatest evil of our time. We need and value your partnership. Together, we can save the lives of preborn babies and help equip mothers and fathers to become better parents, while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. What could be better? Partnering with the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix means you join a group of believers that are saving lives of preborn babies, helping young men and women make healthy choices that protects them as well as children, and makes you part of a dynamic awakening and equipping of the Church to reclaim its voice and take its rightful place at the forefront of restoring the sanctity of human life in the world.

The Life Giving Church

The Church and the CPCs are partners in defending the sanctity of human life. The Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix believes the Lord has appointed the Church as the voice for life. We believe that it is the role of the Church of Jesus Christ to be the primary means for the restoration of the sacredness of human life to our United States culture. Christ designed the Church to penetrate like yeast into every corner of a culture. CPC's alone cannot sufficiently influence all levels of our culture in the way that the Church as a whole can and must. God's Church is the only means by which we can respond to the global abortion holocaust.

We desire to see an equipped, empowered and engaged Church. We are committed to coming alongside the Church with resources and training to equip believers to engage with people in the realms of sexual integrity education, unplanned pregnancy intervention, and post-abortion restoration. We are making speakers, seminars and resources available to the local Body of Christ. As a result, we expect to see a culture of life spreading from the Church and positively impacting our communities.

The Lord has responded to the violence of abortion through His Bride—the Church, the Body of Christ.

Church Slide Show

Closing Thoughts

As an outreach of the Body of Christ, and together with like-minded believers, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix are sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, opening minds to the truth about abortion and saving many lives in the process. We are honored to partner with our friends to bring hope to those in what seems to be hopeless situations, to give them the direction and care and encouragement they need to move forward.

When we speak of ministering to thousands of individuals or think of saving hundreds of babies from abortion each year, these opportunities seem big! But each opportunity begins with a single moment, a single prayer, a single gift. During these past three decades, we've grown from a fledgling startup to one of the largest, most respected multi-center CPC ministries in the nation, but there is still so much more to be done.

It's our honor to witness God move in such powerful ways in the lives of young women, in families and in our churches. It's humbling to watch as He orchestrates events so masterfully, everything in His own perfect time, all in an effort to change the heart of a single soul. Through God's love and grace we are expanding the call to Life.

As we work, we are believing this call to Life will become a vibrant, conscience, organized and mainstream part of the church culture that can influence the local and global mission fields created by the loss of the sanctity of human life. We glorify God as we educate, equip and inspire Christians to develop a Biblical worldview on the Sanctity of Human Life which results in personal application and action that affects them, their family and their community.

As we compete for every life threatened by abortion, we know the fight is far from over. There are still thousands of preborn children every year who are denied their chance at life. With so many lives on the line, we can't afford to rest, we must continue to advance the cause of life wherever and whenever we can. We can only do this as the Church comes together to confront this great evil that is assaulting our land.