

# Abortion and the Church

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The Church of Jesus Christ finds itself facing an unprecedented spiritual attack related to the declining moral culture that is occurring in countries around the world. The consequences of sin outside the Church are taking a toll on our brothers and sisters inside the Church. Biblical sexuality - God's most intimate gift to male and female relationships in the covenant of marriage - is being assaulted by an immoral, secular and humanistic worldview. Sexual sin, the pressures of a secular world, or a basic lack of understanding of human biology, often leads to an unexpected pregnancy. When you combine this with a lack of understanding of the sanctity of human life and the result is a dramatic increase in abortion - the intentional killing of an innocent life made in the image of God while still in its' mothers womb. Unfortunately, the killing of babies by abortion has now entered the Church of Christ.

Sexual immorality, abortion, sexually transmitted infections; pornography and child abuse are damaging the human soul. The Church is called to be light to a dark and suffering world. But we must be careful that the world may be casting its' shadow on the Church. This can be seen when 60% of women who have abortions in the United States claim they are Christians. An abortionist, when asked recently by a Christian to stop performing abortions and go to church, responded "I will go to church when the church stops coming to me."

There are few things that damage the heart of an individual like the brokenness that occurs when we fall into sexual sin and abortion. The most effective way to heal those hurt, damaged or broken by sexual sin is by focusing on Christ and bringing a life giving teaching on repentance, forgiveness and holiness based on the Word of God.

God has shown Life Equip Global that we can have the greatest impact in matters of abortion by equipping, empowering and encouraging the Church to take the lead in proclaiming the sanctity of human life and Biblical sexual integrity. To properly respond against sexual immorality and abortion, the local church must be a center where truth, teaching, holiness, grace and forgiveness are shared with the Body of Christ.

Life Equip Global is offering our services to the Church around the world to encourage local churches to boldly define, declare and defend the sanctity of human life. We are committed to coming alongside your local community of believers as you work to inform, educate and train up disciples of Jesus.

We believe that upholding the sanctity of human life, especially by coming alongside the church - equipping, encouraging and exhorting her to take her rightful place at the forefront of this issue - is the most effective way of decreasing unplanned pregnancies, and therefore abortion. The basis for all of this is always the same - powerfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rather than the Church continuing to reel from Satanic attacks, it is time that she take a powerful, Biblically-based stance on God's authority and the principle of the sanctity of human life and Biblical sexual integrity. The Church must be encouraged to reclaim her responsibility to influence and transform, through the spreading of His Kingdom and the power of the Holy Spirit, the culture in which it resides. The Church was created so that even the gates of Hell could not withstand the power of the truth she shares. And this truth must be rooted in holiness and repentance, forgiveness, mercy, compassion and love.

A topic as volatile and controversial and emotionally laden as abortion is extremely polarizing and tends to make people dig in their heels in their various positions.

Christians can be influenced by our culture to respond as if this is a political issue created by courts and to be resolved by laws and arguments. Abortion is ultimately a spiritual issue, and an issue of the heart, and it is the truth and the love of Christ that must prevail. Like the woman caught in adultery for which the punishment was death by stoning, but for which Jesus forgave her - our response must also be completely Christlike, full of mercy and compassion.

God has declared the Church to be the primary means for the restoration of the sacredness of human life and Biblical human sexuality. Christ designed the Church to penetrate like yeast into every corner of a culture. Sanctity of life and pro-life ministries cannot begin to influence all levels of our culture in the way that the Church is positioned to. Our goal is to encourage the Church to take an active and vocal role in responding to the unprecedented attack against the sanctity of human life. We believe this can occur as the Church understands, embraces and undertakes the fullness of its calling, summarized in these foundational biblical tenets:

The Great Creator - God created mankind in His image. Mankind was to relate intimately with its Creator and to bring Him glory. Human life is to be valued and protected.

The Great Commission - God calls us to share the Gospel and make disciples of our fellow man.

The Two Greatest Commandments - Love God and Love your neighbor - these two commands set forth the essentials of loving our Creator God wholeheartedly and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

These teachings lead us into the inevitable conclusion that transformation through a relationship with Jesus Christ and the sacredness of human life are inseparable. This truth is simply part of the core of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

When these teachings are embraced by the Church, we imagine a Church that is full of individuals healed from their wounds and engaged in our communities. A Church taking her rightful place as the leading voice in the defense of human life and sexual integrity. A Church that understands her role as the Bride of Christ, and seeks therefore to be holy in the eyes of God. A Church that is willing to assume an uncompromising Biblical position on these issues, while remaining rooted in the love of Christ. A Church that is filled with broken people who are in the process of being healed and transformed. A Church that

understands that by the power of the Holy Spirit, she remains the single most persuasive voice for the preservation of sexual integrity and human life—now and into the future.

The Church, by God's power and anointing, can challenge the culture of death and proclaim the culture of life. Through the Church, men, women and children can be taught God's view of sexuality and the sanctity of human life. They can be challenged to take responsibility for their sexual behavior and come to value God's plan for relationships and marriage. Men and women who are trained regarding God's truth on these issues and who are led by the Holy Spirit will start making God-honoring choices of living holy and pure lives. We will "confess our sins to one another, and bear one another's burdens."

As you read and are convicted by the teachings highlighted here from the word of God we pray and hope that you will embrace the task of strengthening families, teach sexual integrity, strengthen those who are struggling with sexual issues, assist those in unplanned pregnancies, and provide post-abortion restoration to church members. Our desire is to equip you to share this information with others, both by teaching others, and by boldly living out the principles taught.

Our children, our single adults and our families are under a massive soul-crushing attack—especially when it comes to our sexuality—and they need our help. And the only institution on earth that has the calling, the authority, and the resources to boldly proclaim and restore the understanding of the sanctity of human life and Biblical sexual integrity is the Church—the living Body of Christ.

Where should our young people learn their lessons regarding sexuality and relationships? From their parents. And in a perfect world, all parents would teach their children well, they themselves having been taught from the word of God, and having learned by listening to and watching their parents. But in this imperfect world, most parents are at the end of their rope, not knowing how to withstand the barrage of sexual messages coming at their children 24 hours a day from the radio, TV, internet—even from their cell phones. Many marriages are broken and many children are being brought up in single family homes.

Within the community of the Church, men can challenge and encourage each other to lead sexually pure lives, outside and inside of marriage. Women can find a place to heal from past wounds and can model and teach Godly behavior to younger women. Parents can listen to the Word and learn how to apply the principles they learn along with other parents. And children can be loved, protected, and brought up surrounded by a community of caring adults,

The Church needs to embrace its' role regarding Biblical human sexuality. Because the Lord made us as sexual beings, it falls within the scope of the Church to teach believers what the Word says regarding our sexuality, how to properly act out our sexuality and how to protect our sexuality in a way that honors God and blesses everyone around us.

With the rebirth of Biblical sexual integrity and the sanctity of human life ethic in the Church, we believe a growing number of believers will have the calling, courage and conviction to stand firm in their homes, workplaces and communities. God will be glorified by the works of His people as they are inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit to reflect the love of their Lord and Savior. There will be a rebirth in our communities as we become a more life-affirming, "Life Giving" people. A Life Giving Church will

become part of the answer to the Lord's Prayer, "*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*"