

growing
further

**Love No Matter What You
Think About Abortion**

Love. No Matter What

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Proverbs 19:11 (TPT)

A wise person demonstrates patience, for mercy means holding your tongue. When you are insulted, be quick to forgive and forget it, for you are virtuous when you overlook an offense.
(Memorize)

There is probably not a hotter hot-button-issue in our society than that of abortion. Since Roe v. Wade in the early 70's, there has been a war of rhetoric going on between the pro-life and pro-choice groups. This usually happens when the issue is such a personal issue and has so many emotions, good and bad, wrapped up with it. Make no mistake, we as Christians must understand this issue from God's point of view because only God has the authority to make a statement of when life, that He creates, comes into existence. When it comes down to it, what the government says, what the Supreme Court says, what science says or what any person thinks does not matter: What does God say? The creator of life is the only one who has the authority to determine when a life begins and when a life should end. Having said all of that, how are we to treat those who for whatever reason have had an abortion? What about those who at some time in the past were involved in the abortion industry? The answer is simple: We treat all people the same way we are treated by God. He loves us, has been compassionate to us, has forgiven us all our sin, and does not condemn us. We should do the same.

**OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE –
SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.**

Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV)

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Jeremiah 1:4-5 (NIV)

The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

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1. Those who take a pro-choice position about abortion say that it is all right to terminate a fetus because it is not a person until it is outside of the mother's womb (as determined by Roe v Wade). Based on the above passages, do you think God does or does not view an unborn fetus as a person? When scripture talks about humanity being created in the image of God, what do you think that means? Do you think the image of God is physical, spiritual, or both? When do you think the image of God is placed within a person, when they are conceived or when they are physically born? If the physical part of an individual dies during an abortion, what about the spiritual part that God created?

Answer – It is obvious that a person is much more than just their physical body, the Bible says we also have a soul and a spirit. The scripture passages above speak of the unborn as people that God was involved in creating, whom he even had plans for already before their birth. Roe v Wade was only dealing with the physical entity of the fetus and did not address whether it was right or not to allow the spirit and soul of the person that God had created to be born, so it is not a good standard for determining if God would be ok with abortion. When a baby dies now, scripture indicates that they will be in heaven so it seems logical that the same would be true of aborted babies.

2. Do you think that it would be right to condemn a person because they once had an abortion? Why or why not? Is it possible to criticize or disagree with a person's choice to have an abortion and at the same time love and accept them? How? What do you think of the practice that some religious groups have of going to an abortion clinic with signs and shouting at women who are there for an abortion, calling them murderers? What do you think Christians should do who want to express their opposition to abortion?

3. The pro-choice movement says that whether or not a person has an abortion is a matter between a woman and her doctor and it is not anybody else's business. Do you agree with this idea? What do you see as a possible problem to this idea?

Answer – This might be a possible resolution to this issue if not for one fact: Most doctors do not take into account what God thinks of the issue and a woman is never counseled by most medical doctors to take whether or not the fetus is already a person into account.

4. When speaking with pro-choice advocates, they usually give hypothetical situations to prove why abortions are needed. The health of the mother is given as a reason. Situations such as rape and incest are given as reasons. Possible genetic diseases that a baby might be born with are stated. The inability for a mother to support a baby is used. What do you think of these reasons? If you are a Christian who believes abortion is wrong, how would you answer these arguments?

Answer – In all of these situations, one big factor is never mentioned: God. Could God take any of these circumstances that might be bad and use them in the life of the mother and baby to get the glory? In addition, the most logical solution is never brought up, which is, a baby can always be given up for adoption; there are plenty of people who would love to adopt a baby. For every story about a woman who had an abortion because of the hardship that it would bring, there are stories of people who chose to keep the baby and saw God do miraculous things in the lives of the mother and baby. What happens if you abort the next Stephen Hawking?

MAKING IT PRACTICAL (OPTIONAL)

Below are some practical things you can do in regard to the pro-life/pro-choice issue.

Level 1 Challenge: If you know of someone who is considering having an abortion, help them to see and consider the choice of having the baby and giving it up for adoption.

Level 2 Challenge: Never criticize or condemn a woman for having an abortion, show them God's love and how He has a better plan for their life. If they are not a believer, share the gospel with them.

Level 3 Challenge: Consider going to the Hope House and volunteering. Hope House is an organization Grace Church supports that helps unwed pregnant mothers to have a place to live so that they can carry their baby to full term.

Preparing to Lead Your Group

PRAY for insight as you begin to prepare for leading your group. Ask for God's wisdom, that the Holy Spirit will be the teacher and that you will be God's instrument to lead the group to greater understanding and a willingness to commit to becoming more like God. Prayer should be your primary source of personal preparation for leading your group.

PONDER YOUR PROGRESS after each session and at the end of a series. Reflect on what went well and what did not. Re-evaluation is key to your growth as a leader. Consider whether your plan is being effective in moving the group to greater understanding and commitment.

Using This Sermon Discussion Guide

- Going Further is a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. We have designed it so it can be completed easily within 30-45 minutes. As the discussion leader, you should preview and evaluate the questions based on the needs of your group. Decide in advance what is more important to focus on, should time not allow for the entire lesson.
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group.
- Personal applications are essential for growth and should be included in every discussion. When discussing how they will apply principles, group members may state very general goals such as, "I need to spend more time in prayer." It is important for you to help people make goals that are very specific and commit to specific plans of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 25 minutes earlier each morning, spend 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- Your goal as the leader is to bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their needs for personal life change. Ultimately, as part of your accountability to the group, you want to commit to personal life change.
- Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessing of success.

