

# abortion in ohio

From the Ohio Right to Life Winter 2010 Newsletter

Ohio abortions continue on a downward trend, according to the Ohio Department of Health's 2008 Report on Induced Abortions. Ohio abortions have decreased 23% since statewide reporting began in 1976. The abortion rate also decreased by 4% just last year alone! Ohio Right to Life believes these promising results demonstrate a changing culture within Ohio that supports and promotes life and alternatives to abortion, such as adoption. "We are winning the fight against those who push abortion as the first and sometimes only choice for women in crisis," Ohio Right to Life Director Mike Gonidakis said. "While we take great joy that the collective efforts of Ohio's pro-life community are making significant strides in ending abortions, the total number is staggering."

The total number of induced abortions recorded in 2008 stands at 29,613. Most of these abortions took place in four Ohio Counties, including: Cuyahoga County at a 33.9% occurrence rate, Hamilton County with 19.1%, Franklin County with 17.6% and Summit County with 10.5%. Although the total number of abortions was down, the report indicated areas where improvement was needed. For example, 41.7% of resident abortions were performed on black women, even though blacks make up only 12% of Ohio's population. "Clearly, the abortion industry has successfully targeted African-Americans," Gonidakis said. "Improving access to life-affirming options and resources for pregnant women in the black community is essential," Gonidakis said.

Of those who did obtain an abortion, 47%, the largest percentage among women, were more than 24 years old, while 34% were between 20 and 24 years old, and 18% were less than 20 years old. The report also showed that among these various age groups, abortion rates decreased the most among women 18 years and younger.

"Ohio Right to Life in partnership with Ohio's life-affirming crisis pregnancy centers help women see that they have real alternatives to abortion," Gonidakis said. "We will continue to promote life-affirming options including adoption and will work to increase the understanding that abortion not only hurts the unborn, but also the women who have them."



# abortion in ohio

New Government Report Shows Historically Low Abortions in Ohio

## collective effort of pro-life community sees progress

From Ohio Right to Life's 2009 Press Release on the 2008 Abortion Report

Abortions have reached an all-time low in Ohio, according to a report released today by the Ohio Department of Health. The 2008 Report on Induced Abortions in Ohio shows a significant downward trend in the total number of abortions performed. The report shows 29,613 abortions were performed in 2008. This is a four percent decrease over the 2007 number of 30,859. Since 1976, when the statistic was first recorded, abortions have decreased by 23 percent in Ohio. "We are winning the fight against those who push abortion as the first and sometimes only choice for women in crisis," Ohio Right to Life Executive Director Mike Gonidakis said. "While we take great joy that the collective efforts of Ohio's pro-life community are making significant strides in ending abortions, the total number is staggering."

"Ohio Right to Life and our life-affirming crisis pregnancy centers help women see that they have real alternatives to abortion," Gonidakis said. "We will continue to promote life-affirming options including adoption and will work to increase the understanding that abortion hurts not only the unborn, but also the women who have them."

For charts, graphs and data visit:

<http://www.ohiolife.org/assets/attachments/file/2008AbortionReport.pdf>

The report listed a comparative table of abortions between 2008 and 1997. Some of the key findings include:

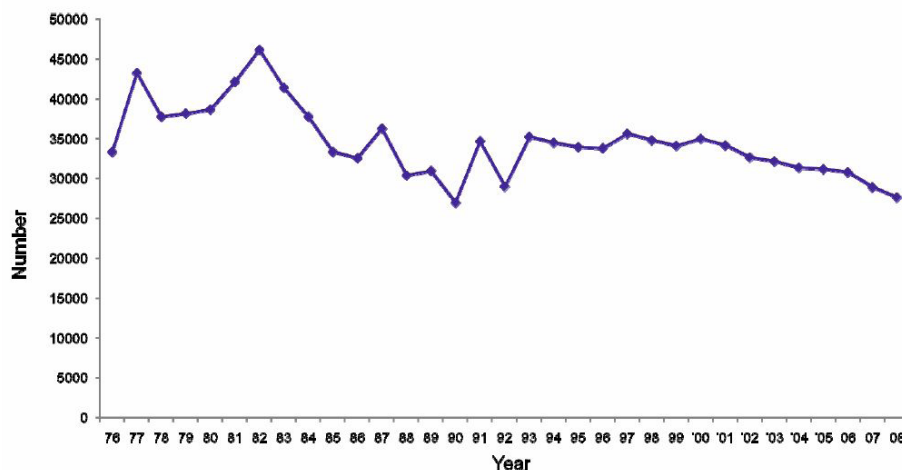
Abortion declined by  
35% among women 18 years old and younger  
22% among women 20-24 years old

Abortion declined by  
30% among white women;  
10% among African-American women;

The report also detailed demographic information regarding women obtaining abortions. Those statistics include:

18% of women were less than 20 years old;  
34% were between 20 and 24 years old;  
47% were older than 24 years old;  
83% were unmarried;  
56% were white; and  
42% were black.

### resident induced abortions in ohio 1976-2008



# abortion and minority communities

"According to the 2000 Census, Hispanics have replaced African-Americans as the largest minority group in the U.S. The loss of over 14.5 African-American children through abortion has played a significant part in this population decline. The number has increased by over 1.5 million abortions between 2004-2006."

- US Census Bureau, 2000 Census

More African American babies have been killed by abortion during the past 30 years than the total number of African American deaths from all other causes combined since 1973.

-Based on stats from US Center for Disease Control National Vital Statistics Reports

While representing only a quarter of the U.S. population of women of child-bearing age, African-American and Hispanic American women account for over half of all abortions performed each year in the United States.

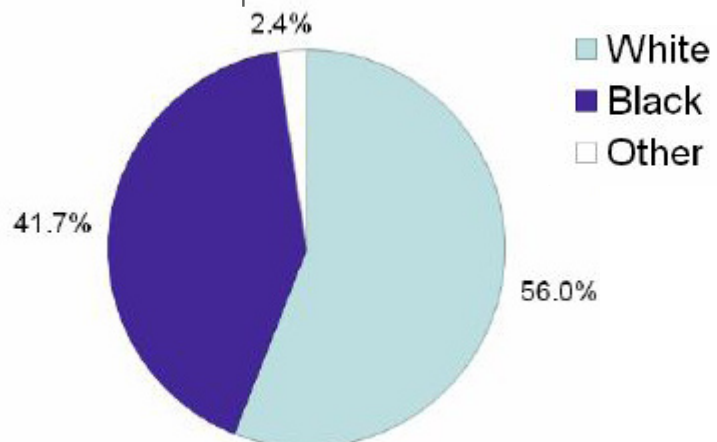
- National Right to Life Committee

"Abortion services have been deliberately and systematically targeted towards African Americans. A disproportionate number of the nation's abortion clinics are located in minority neighborhoods."

- The Destiny of the Black Race, Carlisle Peterson; Planned Parenthood 1992 Service Report

## 2008 Ohio Department of Health Report on Induced Abortions

**in ohio,  
african americans  
make up only 12% of  
the total population  
yet account for  
41.7% of all  
performed abortions.**



# abortion and minority communities

## planned parenthood's connection

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is a billion dollar a year corporation, taking in 1.0381 billion in revenues in the fiscal year ending 6/30/08

36% of all PPFA's revenues come from clinical income, including abortion services.

Planned Parenthood is the leading provider of abortions, and is responsible for more than a quarter of U.S. abortions every year.

While abortions in the U.S. dropped as a whole from 1990-2007, abortions performed at PPFA clinics during the same time frame increased by 236%

In 2007 abortions outnumbered adoption referrals by greater than a 62 to one margin at PPFA.

Margaret Sanger, founder of the series of groups that became PPFA, declared in her book *Pivot of Civilization*, "...we are paying for and even submitting to the dictates of an ever increasing, unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all..." While the modern PPFA has abandoned some of Sanger's more offensive language, the group's current policies and activities do not present any obvious departure from its founder's original aims. Today PPFA identifies one of its "core clients," as "young women, low-income women, and women of color," - National Right to Life

Sanger, was also a proponent of "race hygiene" through "negative eugenics," an attempt to reduce the fertility of "dysgenic" groups, in the early 20th century. In 1921, she said eugenics is "the most adequate and thorough avenue to the solution of racial, political and social problems, and the ever increasing, unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all." She also cautioned, "We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population." - Life Site News 2/28/08

In 2008, UCLA's pro-life student magazine, *The Advocate*, revealed an undercover investigation in which representatives of Planned Parenthood enthusiastically accepted financial donations targeting the abortion of an unborn black baby for racist motives. Lila Rose, editor of *The Advocate*, taped responses of Planned Parenthood officials from seven states that reveal the eugenic character of their ideology. -- Life Site News 2/28/08

# abortion techniques

## early abortion

Designed to be used as soon as a pregnancy can be chemically detected. After widening the cervix the abortionist inserts into the uterus a long flexible suction tube which is attached to a vacuum syringe. Using ultrasound, the abortionist locates the tiny human embryo in the womb and applies suction to tear the developing baby from the uterine wall.

## suction aspiration/vacuum curettage

A powerful suction tube with a sharp cutting edge is inserted into the womb through the dilated cervix. The suction dismembers the body of the developing baby and tears the placenta from the wall of the uterus, sucking the contents into a collection bottle.

## dilation and curettage d&c :

Here, the cervix is dilated or stretched to permit the insertion of a loop shaped steel knife. The body of the baby is cut into pieces and removed and the placenta is scraped off the uterine wall.

## ru 486:

The RU 486 procedure requires at least 3 trips to the abortion facility. In her first visit, the woman is given the RU486 pills, which block the action of progesterone, the natural hormone vital to maintaining the rich nutrient lining of the uterus. The developing baby starves as the nutrient lining disintegrates. A second visit is made 36 to 48 hours later, and the woman is given a dose of artificial prostaglandins, usually misoprostol, which initiates uterine contractions to expel the body of the embryonic baby. A third visit about 2 weeks later determines if the abortion has taken place. At least 4% must return for surgical abortions.

## methotrexate:

Another multi-visit procedure. In the first visit a woman receives an intramuscular injection of methotrexate, a powerful drug anti-metabolite which is often used to fight cancer. Methotrexate attacks the fast growing cells of the trophoblast, the tissue surrounding the embryo that eventually gives rise to the placenta. As the trophoblast breaks down, the baby dies as she is deprived of needed food, oxygen and fluids. A prostaglandin vaginal suppository given three to seven days later triggers the expulsion of the child from the woman's uterus. Sometimes this occurs within the next few hours but often a second dose of the prostaglandin is required. Those shown to still be pregnant in later visits (at least 1 in 25 women) are given surgical abortions.

## dilation and evacuation d&e :

Forceps with sharp metal jaws are used to grasp parts of the developing baby, which are then twisted and torn away. This continues until the child's entire body is removed from the womb. Because the baby's skull has often hardened to bone by this time, the skull must sometimes be compressed or crushed to facilitate removal.

## instillation methods:

After fluid is withdrawn, chemicals are injected into the amniotic sac to kill the baby and initiate contractions. Saline poisons the child and burns the baby's skin. Other methods such as urea and prostaglandins mainly work by initiating violent contractions, but are generally less effective than saline. Sometimes chemicals such as potassium chloride or digoxin are injected directly into the baby's heart, triggering cardiac arrest.

## partial-birth abortion:

Used in the fifth and sixth months of pregnancy and sometimes later. Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist reaches into the uterus, grabs the unborn baby's leg with forceps and pulls the baby into the birth canal, except for the head, which is deliberately kept just inside the womb (at this point in the abortion the baby is alive). Then the abortionist punctures the base of the baby's skull with a long surgical scissors or another instrument. He enlarges the wound and inserts a catheter (tube), which is connected to a powerful suction machine that sucks the baby's brains out. The abortionist then withdraws the now-collapsed skull from the uterus.

## hysterotomy:

Similar to the Ceasarean Section, this method is generally used if chemical methods such as salt poisoning or prostaglandins fail. Incisions are made in the abdomen, and the uterus, the baby, placenta, and amniotic sac are removed.

# physical effects of abortion

It isn't discussed much on the abortion websites or at the clinics, but most women find abortion quite painful

Ninety-seven percent of aborting women, in one Montreal study, reported pain, with 61% reporting moderate to severe pain. U.S. researchers admit to being "surprised," at finding most women, in a study of their own, reporting "moderate or more discomfort" during their abortions and said they had not expected so many to report "severe pain." Adolescents in the Montreal study were nearly twice as likely to report severe pain as older women. In a ranking, women put their abortion pain ahead of sprains, fractures, and arthritis, and about equal to the residual pain from an amputation. Women having drug induced abortions reported higher pain levels than those having surgical abortions. Despite efforts by the industry to minimize abortion pain, it is an important signal that patients and doctors should heed. Pain may be a side effect of surgery or the chemical abortion process, but can also be an indicator of infection, cervical damage, uterine rupture, or an unresolved ectopic pregnancy.

## common abortion side effects, complications and injuries

### From Chemical Abortion

- Severe Pain, Cramping, Nausea, Diarrhea
  - Hemorrhage, Infection
- Rupture of Undiagnosed Ectopic

### From Surgical Abortion

- Infection, Sepsis, Endometritis
  - Cervical Lacerations
- Uterine, Bladder, or Bowel Perforations
  - Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
- Incomplete Abortion, Retained Tissue

### Abortion Related Causes of Death

Anesthesia Infection  
Hemorrhage Ruptured Ectopic Pregnancy Embolism

### Physical Damage

Surgical abortion may harm a woman's reproductive system, damaging her uterus or cervix, leading to future reproductive problems. Chemical abortions (using RU486, etc.) are bloody, painful, and dangerous, and the long term effects on the body are unknown.

### Later Infant Disability

Preterm birth is associated with lower birthweight and higher rates of cerebral palsy, often leading to physical and mental disability.

### Future Infertility

Women having abortions face more than a doubled risk of future sterility.

### Future Miscarriages

Decreased cervical resistance due to forced dilation may result in early cervical failure and the spontaneous abortion (miscarriage) of future pregnancies.

### Later Ectopic Pregnancy

A study appearing in the American Journal of Public Health in 1998 found aborting women facing a 50% increased risk of having a subsequent ectopic or tubal pregnancy. The risk was nearly twice as high (90%) for women having two or more previous abortions.

### Future Prematurity

Premature birth is the leading cause of infant morbidity and mortality, and at least 10 international studies show previous abortions significantly increases that risk.

data from the National Right to Life Committee  
for citations, visit [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

# physical effects of abortion

the unfortunate truth

## the abortion breast cancer link

### Pregnancy & Normal Breast Development

In pregnancy, as estrogen levels elevate, immature milk glands, or lobules, begin to grow and differentiate, reaching maturity around 32 weeks. By birth, the lobules are fully formed and ready for milk production. A full term pregnancy is known to lower a woman's long term risk of breast cancer.

### Abortion Interrupts Breast Development

Abortions, which typically occur in the first or early second trimester, interrupt the process of breast development while estrogen is still surging, urging growth, but before full differentiation has taken place. Thus, the risk-lowering effect of full term pregnancy is lost. Even worse, lobules stuck in this growth stage are susceptible to replication defects, which may eventually manifest themselves as cancers.

### Scientific Evidence of Abortion's Impact

Thirteen out of 17 studies in the U.S. reported more breast cancer among women who chose abortion. A 1996 meta-analysis of all published reports on the incidence of induced abortion and breast cancer appearing in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* found, on average, a 30% increased risk.

## adverse public health consequences of abortion

Physical: Two government funded studies from Finland that studied deaths among all women of childbearing age within one year after pregnancy found higher death rates among women who aborted, as well as higher rates of death from suicide, accidents and homicide. The Finland Studies also found a lower death rate among women who gave birth than among women who had not been pregnant suggesting that birth had a protective effect. <sup>1</sup>

A study using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth found that women whose first pregnancy ended in abortion had a higher risk of clinical depression than women whose first pregnancy ended in birth. <sup>2</sup>

A study using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth found that children of women with a history of abortion were more likely to receive a lower level of emotional support in the home between ages 1-4 and were more likely to have behavior problems between ages 5-9 than children of women with no history of abortion. <sup>3</sup>

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data collected by the National Right to Life Committee [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)

1. Gissler, et al, "Suicides after pregnancy in Finland: register linkage study" *British Medical Journal* 313:1431-4 (1996), and Gissler, M. et al, "Pregnancy-associated deaths in Finland 1987-1994 -definition problems and benefits of record linkage," *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* 76:651-657 (1997).

2. Cogle, et al, "Depression associated with abortion and childbirth: a long-term analysis of the NLSY cohort," *MedSciMonit*, 2003; 9(4): CR105-112

3. Coleman, et al, "A history of induced abortion in relation to substance use during subsequent pregnancies carried to term", *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, December 2002; 187(6):1673-1678

# ohio laws on life issues

the facts of life in Ohio

## **right to choose abortion** – (Ohio Constitution, Section 1, Article 1)

In *Preterm Cleveland v. Voinovich*, 627 N.E. 2d 570 (the case which found Ohio's Woman's Right to Know Law constitutional), the Tenth Appellate District Court said: "Although Ohio recognizes a common law right of privacy, *Housh v. Peth* (1956), 165 Ohio St. 35, it is not necessary to find a constitutional right of privacy in order to reach the conclusion that the choice of a woman whether or not to bear a child is one of the liberties guaranteed by Section 1, Article 1, Ohio Constitution." This was not an Ohio Supreme Court decision, and therefore not the final word on the interpretation of the Ohio Constitution. However, it probably means that, when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, any attempt in Ohio to prohibit abortion would be short-circuited until this issue is resolved.

## **late-term abortion**

Abortions are legal in Ohio throughout all nine months of pregnancy. The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a district court decision which found Ohio's post-viability laws unconstitutional. *Women's Medical Professional Corp. v. Voinovich*, 130 F.3d 187.

## **partial-birth abortion** – (O.R.C. 2919.151)

On June 28, 2004, Ohio became the first state to have a ban on partial-birth abortions go into effect since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Nebraska's ban in 2000. In May of 2000, Governor Taft signed a new law passed by the Ohio legislature. On December 17, 2003, the majority of a 3-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit reversed a district court ruling and held that this statute was constitutional (*Women's Medical Professional Corp. v. Taft*, 353 F.3d 436). The full 6th Circuit denied a petition to rehear the case and the law went into effect when the plaintiffs decided not to appeal to the Supreme Court. Ohio's law does include a health exception approved by the Supreme Court in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, and it does define partial-birth abortion more narrowly than the Nebraska law which was struck down in 2000. Ohio was the first state to pass a ban on partial-birth abortions in 1995, but that law was declared unconstitutional by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 1997.

## **parental involvement** – (O.R.C. 2919.121)

An unemancipated minor under 18 may not obtain an abortion unless one of her parents or her guardian has given written consent or she obtains a court order. (The provisions of this parental consent statute are now in effect, except for a section preventing additional judicial bypass requests after a first request had been denied, which was held unconstitutional by a panel of the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in November 2006 in *Cincinnati Women's Services v. Taft*, Case No. 05-4174.)

## **informed consent** – (O.R.C. 2317.56)

Except in the case of a medical emergency, at least 24 hours prior to an abortion: 1) a doctor must meet in-person with the woman and inform her of the nature of the procedure, the medical risks of abortion and childbirth, and the probable gestational age of the child; and 2) the woman must be told the name of the abortionist and given state-printed materials describing the development of the unborn child and listing agencies which can help with her pregnancy and childbirth. Prior to the abortion, the woman must sign a form consenting to the abortion. (The requirement that a doctor meet with the woman in person at least 24 hours before the abortion was upheld by a panel of the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in November 2006 in *Cincinnati Women's Services v. Taft*, Case No. 05-4174. The law is now in effect.)

# ohio laws on life issues

the facts of life in Ohio

## public policy statement – (O.R.C. 9.041)

It is the public policy of the state of Ohio to prefer childbirth over abortion to the extent that is constitutionally permissible.

## freedom of conscience – (O.R.C. 4731.91)

No person may be required to participate in medical procedures which result in abortion.

## abortion manslaughter – (O.R.C. 2919.13)

Prohibits purposely taking the life of or not taking measures required by medical judgment to preserve the life of a child who is alive when removed from the woman's uterus.

## fetal homicide

All of Ohio's homicide and assault statutes prohibit actions which kill or injure another person's unborn child at any stage of pregnancy. There are exceptions for legal abortions and actions by the mother.

## public funding

(O.R.C. 124.85) Prohibits the use of tax money to pay for state employees' insurance coverage for nontherapeutic abortions. (O.R.C. 5101.56) State and local funds cannot be used for an abortion, except in the case of rape, incest, or to preserve the woman's life. (O.R.C. 3702.33) State "genetic services" funds cannot be used to counsel or refer for an abortion, except in a medical emergency. (O.R.C. 3701.046) State "women health services" funds cannot be used to provide abortion services and cannot be used to counsel or refer for an abortion, except in a medical emergency. Programs that receive these funds must provide services that are physically and financially separate from abortion-providing and abortion-promoting activities.

## physician requirement – (O.R.C. 2919.11)

Abortion is the practice of medicine or surgery for purposes of O.R.C. 4731.41, which means that only licensed physicians may perform abortions. Nurses (O.R.C. 4723.28) and physician assistants (O.R.C. 4730.25) are prohibited from "prescribing any drug or device to perform or induce an abortion, or otherwise performing or inducing an abortion".

## fetal experimentation/sale – (O.R.C. 2919.14)

Prohibits experimenting on or selling the "product of conception" which is aborted. The sale of "baby parts" is thus prohibited in Ohio.

## forced abortion – (O.R.C. 2701.15)

Prohibits any court from ordering a woman to have an abortion. (O.R.C. 5101.55) No person may be ordered to obtain an abortion by any public agency. Refusal to obtain an abortion cannot be used to cause the loss of public assistance or other rights or privileges. (O.R.C. 3701.791) Requires abortion facilities to post a "No One Can Force You to Have an Abortion" notice that informs women not to sign a consent form and to tell clinic personnel if they are being coerced.

## abortion reporting – (O.R.C. 3701.79)

Requires filing a confidential report on each abortion with the Ohio Department of Health which uses the information to produce an annual statistical report.

# ohio laws on life issues

the facts of life in Ohio

## wrongful birth and wrongful life – (O.R.C. 2305.116)

Prohibits “wrongful birth” and “wrongful life” lawsuits which are medical claims that allege that a child with a disability would have been aborted rather than born if a medical professional had discovered the disability and informed the parents.

## ru-486 regulation - (O.R.C. 2919.123)

Creates state criminal penalty for providing RU-486 (mifepristone) to another to induce an abortion without complying with the requirements of federal law governing RU-486. (On September 27, 2006, U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott of Cincinnati held O.R.C. 2919.123 unconstitutional in Planned Parenthood Cincinnati Region v Taft, Case No. C-1-04-493. Dlott held that the law was vague and that none of it could be enforced. This decision has been appealed to the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.)

## ultrasound viewing option - (O.R.C. 2317.561)

Requires that if an ultrasound is to be performed prior to or during an abortion, the abortionist must provide the woman an opportunity to view the active ultrasound image of the fetus or embryo and offer to provide her a physical picture of the image of the embryo or fetus.

## clinic regulations – (Admin. Code sections 3701-83-01 to 22)

The Ohio Department of Health rules regarding “Ambulatory Surgical Facilities” create personnel and staffing requirements, service standards including informed consent, building and site requirements, medical records requirements and allow inspections. (Admin. Code section 3701-47) Public Health Council regulations cover human fetal disposal and post-abortion procedures which only apply to abortions performed after 14 weeks.

## assisted suicide - (O.R.C. 3795.01, 3795.02, 3795.03)

Under a law which became effective on March 24, 2003, assisting a suicide is against the public policy of Ohio. An injunction may be issued against any person who is preparing to assist a suicide, in the course of assisting a suicide or who has assisted a suicide.

## power of attorney for health care – (O.R.C. 1337.11 - 1337.17)

Ohio has a durable power of attorney for health care law, which permits an individual to appoint another person to make medical decisions in the event the patient is unable to do so.

## living will – (O.R.C. 2133.02)

Ohio law permits an adult to create a declaration (living will) indicating his or her wishes regarding the use or continuation or withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment when in a terminal condition or permanently unconscious state and can no longer make informed decisions. O.R.C. 2133.08 and 2133.09 permits a guardian or certain relatives to authorize the use or continuation or withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment when the patient is in a terminal condition or permanently unconscious state, can no longer make informed decisions, and does not have a declaration or durable power of attorney for health care.

# fetal development

from fertilization to week 17

"Modern technologies have convinced us that beyond question the unborn child is simply another human being, another member of the human community, indistinguishable in every way from any of us." - Dr. Bernard Nathanson, Cofounder of NARAL and Former Pro-Choice Activist

"It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive...It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception... Our laws, one function of which is to help preserve the lives of our people, should be based on accurate scientific data."  
- Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth, Harvard University Medical School

"After fertilization has taken place, a new human being has come into being...this is no longer a matter of taste or opinion...it is plain experimental evidence...each individual has a very neat beginning at conception."  
- Dr. Jerome LeJeune, University of Descartes in Paris

**day 1** fertilization: all human chromosomes present; unique human life begins

**day 6** embryo begins implanting in the uterus

**day 18** heart is forming, eyes start to develop

**day 22** heart begins to beat, pumping the child's own blood throughout the body

**day 28** arms and legs begin to bud

**day 30** the child has already multiplied in size 10,000 times

**day 35** mouth ears and nose begin to take shape

**day 40** child's brainwaves are detected

**day 42** the skeleton has been formed, the child responds to stimulus and may be capable of feeling pain

**day 45** child's sex and reproductive organs begin to sprout

..... **point at which most abortions occur** .....

**week 8** all organs are in place; fingerprints begin to form

**week 9-10** teeth begin to form, fingernails develop, baby can turn head and frown

**week 11** baby can grasp objects placed in its hand

**week 17** baby can dream

# pro-life answers to pro-choice arguments

defending your pro-life position

1. Abortion is only an operation. The fetus is not a human life so why not operate?

The fertilized egg is a human life. Each of a woman's body parts contains her personal genetic code; the growing embryo/fetus has a unique genetic code of his or her own. He or she may not look like a grown human being as he or she is still developing but all of us began in the same manner.

2. We have no right to impose our morality on others.

We have laws that forbid against stealing, rape, murder, etc. All laws impose morality; it is necessary that they are in place to protect people. However, some laws are immoral laws - such as those that used to uphold slavery. Our society should protect its tiniest citizens. Hopefully our society will equally recognize the rights of unborn children under the human rights clause in the US Constitution.

3. I am personally against abortion, but I believe it should be a woman's personal choice to have an abortion or not.

The reason that someone would be opposed to abortion is because they acknowledge that it kills babies, hurts women and men and negatively affects society at large. What if someone said that they personally wouldn't kill the kid who sits next to them in class but it would be alright for someone else to kill them? The result of the choice to have an abortion is a dead baby, a wounded mother and father and a hurting society. Often times a woman is coerced into having an abortion by the child's father or her parents. It is not a free choice for her. Also, if the baby's father does not want her to have an abortion he has no right or choice to prevent the abortion of his child.

4. A woman has a right to do what she wants with her own body.

There are laws against drugs and ones that require people to wear seatbelts or bike helmets because people will do things that harm their own bodies. Abortion does not involve just one body but two. Being inside something is not the same as being a part of something. Approximately half of abortions violently kill unborn females, and these female babies don't have a say over their bodies.

5. Better for the child to be dead than unwanted.

There are many people who were adopted because their birth parents decided it would be best for their child. Thousands of people are waiting to adopt children into their homes. The average wait to adopt a child is 2-10 years. There are people who were created through rape or incest. We all know someone who came from difficult beginnings - what if someone had decided to not give him or her the chance to live? Additionally, child abuse has not decreased since legalized abortion. Abortion has not improved the lives of children and families.

# pro-life answers to pro-choice arguments

defending your pro-life position

6. Those who promote abortion as the primary option have the best interest of the woman in mind.

Abortion is a violent, unnatural procedure and according to women who have had abortions is very painful and humiliating. There are numerous physical health risks to women, including a greater risk of breast cancer. Post-abortion stress disorder affects millions of women and men. Clinical treatment and healing from a past abortion is a long process for many. Additionally, the abortion industry is a huge business earning billions of dollars each year for performing abortions.

7. Abortion can't be a big problem, I don't know anyone who's had one.

About 1.2 million abortions are performed each year in America; one in four women between the ages of 15 and 45 has had an abortion. About 1/3 of our generation were killed by abortion. You'd be totally surprised if you knew how many people you interact with on a daily basis have been wounded by the abortion experience.

8. Abortions are performed before the blobs of tissue grow into babies

Abortions are legal throughout all nine months of the pregnancy. All surgical abortions are performed after the baby has a beating heart, which is at 18 days. At week 6, still before when most abortions are performed, the baby has brain waves that are detectable. Unborn children feel pain for certain by the 13th week, and perhaps even as early as the 8th week. An abortion would be excruciatingly painful to the unborn child. Advancements in technology since the legalization of abortion in 1973 scientifically prove the unborn child is not a blob of tissue, but a living, growing, unique person.

9. The baby may be born mentally disabled or handicapped - and what kind of life would that be anyway?.

The use of this argument would imply that handicapped or mentally disabled people have no value. This expresses ignorance and extreme prejudice against a minority and believes that we can eliminate those who don't meet some kind of cultural standard. We are all handicapped in different ways; some are just not as obvious as others. Plus many people feel called to adopt special needs children.

10. If abortion becomes illegal, unsafe, back-alley abortions will occur and just hurt the mother.

"Safe" and legal abortions cause serious physical damage to the woman, emotional pain to women and men and cause a violent death to an unborn child. We don't want "coat hanger," abortions either. The solution is not legalizing "safe," murder, but assisting people to opt for the life-giving alternatives of parenting or adoption by helping them meet their personal material and psychological needs.

# overturning roe v. wade

January 22, 1973 ... the basics

## before the decision

30 States had rejected making abortion legal.

16 States made some abortions legal through legislation or court action.

4 States permitted unrestricted access to abortion.

## what roe did

In one sweep, Roe invalidated abortion regulations in all 50 states. Roe mandates that States may not prohibit any abortions before "viability". After viability, States may outlaw abortion unless it is necessary for the "preservation of the life or health of the mother"; however, a companion decision, Doe v. Bolton, decided the same day as Roe, effectively gutted any restrictions. Regulations on the procedure are permitted throughout pregnancy.

## doe v. bolton the rest of the story

In Doe v. Bolton, the Court defined health as encompassing "all factors - physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the women's age - relevant to the well-being of the patient." Therefore, under Roe and Doe, a woman must be permitted to obtain an abortion through all nine months if it is for her "well-being". The Court has never specifically ruled on whether laws prohibiting post-viability abortions are constitutional, and although many states have such laws, they are almost never enforced. Roe has been used to keep partial-birth abortions legal.

## the future of roe

There are nine Justices on the Supreme Court. Five of those serving at the end of 2006 have expressly supported Roe. Two have indicated that they would overturn Roe. Two have not ruled on the issue. The President nominates new Justices, but they must be approved by the U.S. Senate.

## what happens when roe is overruled?

Only 7 States have laws prohibiting abortion which could be enforced. 12 States have state court decisions which would permit abortion even if Roe is overruled. The rest of the States would have to overcome significant barriers to enforce old laws or would have to enact new laws prohibiting abortion. If these States do nothing, abortion will remain legal.

# overturning roe v. wade

January 22, 1973 ... the basics

## myths, lies & how to answer them

*"Roe v. Wade was what the American people wanted."*

Not at all. Roe v. Wade subverted the democratic process. In Roe, the U.S. Supreme Court was willing to use its judicial power to trample the legislative power - and the voice of the people - of all 50 States. A majority of the States rejected abortion. Public opinion was against it. It was a failed social experiment. Since democracy was not giving them what they wanted, pro-abortion forces turned to the courts. Abortion was forced on us by a Court in direct contradiction to the national will. That is why abortion still tears at our consciences and haunts our public policy.

*"Women need abortion and Roe."*

Not only has Roe not helped women, it has hurt them. Except for abortion, Roe has never been used as a legal basis for establishing any rights for women. Not once. It hasn't helped them in the workplace or with their families. Abortion exposes women to serious physical and psychological risks - breast cancer, miscarriage, perforated uterus, cervical laceration, infection, and post-abortion traumatic stress - to name only a few.

*"Making abortion illegal will lead to massive numbers of deaths of women from illegal abortions"*

There is no evidence that banning abortion will lead to more deaths for women. Hundreds of women have suffered and died from legal abortion since Roe. Poland, a nation of 40 million people, got rid of legalized abortion in 1993. The number of abortions fell from an average of 150,000 per year under the Communists to 124 in 2001. Records of all deaths due to pregnancy, abortion and childbirth indicate that the rate dropped from 70 in 1990 to 21 in 1999. With the exceptional level of medical care available in the U.S., there is no reason to think our experience will be worse.

*"Criminalizing abortion will send women to jail."*

Overruling Roe will not make abortion illegal; it will just send it back to the states for the people to decide. And no one is interested in sending women to jail. Pro-life people have been helping women with unplanned pregnancies since the 1960's. It is the abortionist who makes his or her money by taking advantage of women's problems who belongs in jail. The goal of the pro-life movement is to re-awaken America to the absolute value of each innocent human life and to help women and their families, now and always.

**action needed: vote in the next election!**

# abstinence

At the heart of the life issue is a young woman who needs love and support as she is faced with a difficult life decision. While the church can support and encourage that woman during her pregnancy and after the child has been born, it is also important to offer another set of resources before the young child is ever conceived. For many life ministries, an abstinence education component is key in preventing these challenging circumstances that many young women find themselves in. While children are a gift, we must remind our teens and young adults that sex is best when it is within the realm of God's plan for us, which is only within the covenant of marriage.

## key talking points on abstinence - from Focus On The Family

While sexual intimacy is the exclusive privilege of a husband and wife within the context of marriage, sexual morality is the concern of individuals, families and society.

Abstinence until and faithfulness within marriage fulfill the biblical guidelines of sexual morality, which include the following:

Human sexuality is both a gift and a responsibility.

The morality of sex is defined by God's holiness and His standards rather than by human desire, experience, personal preference, culture or opinion.

Marriage protects an important purpose of personal sexual intimacy: to reflect the intimate moral and spiritual union Christ will one day enjoy with His Church.

God's standards for sexual moral purity are meant to protect human happiness; only sex within marriage can be physically enjoyable, emotionally satisfying, psychologically fulfilling and spiritually meaningful as He fully intended.

Sex is not an entitlement, nor is it needed for personal wholeness or emotional maturity.

Sexual sins can be fully forgiven through repentance and faith in Christ's atoning work, but physical and psychological consequences caused by sexual sin cannot always be erased in this life.

Sexual celibacy is a worthy state for mature men and women. Unmarried singles who abstain from sex are as pleasing to God as faithful persons in marriage.

All persons - even unmarried teenagers - can rely on God's strength to abstain from sex before marriage.

Sexual immorality threatens the stability of marriages and families. Early premarital sex increases the likelihood of promiscuity and future marital breakup.

Sexual immorality threatens the stability of our society.

Sexual activity outside of marriage causes physical, mental and emotional consequences including out-of-wedlock childbearing, teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, guilt, fear, depression, lowered self-respect and increased risk of suicide.

<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/abstinence/abstinence-before-marriage/talking-points.aspx>

Not only does your new life ministry have the opportunity to save and change lives, but it also has the opportunity to prevent the heartbreak of abortion. One way that your ministry can get started is by looking into providing abstinence education materials for your church and youth group. There are many wonderful abstinence educators and resources listed in the Resources section that can present to your church or provide you with useful materials to help get you started. Consider asking your Pastor or Priest to share about this topic during a church service. Above all pray for God to use your ministry to strengthen the commitment of those in your church to save sex until marriage and avoid the destruction nature of abortion.

# adoption

For a woman facing an unplanned pregnancy, who may not be able to properly care for a child, adoption is a selfless and honorable choice that gives life to a child. God affirms that he has a plan for every life, and many times adoption is part of His great plan. Adoption can also be a great blessing for couples who are unable to conceive

The Christian Adoption Center illustrates this point well.

*Adoption is shown favorably throughout Scripture as a way that God uses people to do His will and bring Him glory. The story is told in the book of Exodus about a Hebrew woman named Jochebed who bore a son during a time period where Pharaoh (the king) was ordering all the male infants to be put to death in order to control population (Exodus 1:15-22). Jochebed took a basket, waterproofed it with tar and pitch, and sent the baby down the river in the basket. One of Pharaoh's daughters spotted the basket and retrieved the child. He was eventually adopted into this royal family and was given the name Moses. He went on to become a faithful and blessed servant of God (Exodus 2:1-10).*

*In the biblical book of Esther, a beautiful girl named Esther, who was adopted after her parents' death, became a prominent female figure in the Old Testament. Esther became a queen and God used her to bring deliverance to the Jewish people. In the New Testament, God's one and only Son, Jesus Christ, was conceived through the Holy Spirit instead of through the seed of a man (Matthew 1:18). He was adopted and raised by His mother's husband, Joseph, who took Jesus in as his own child.*

*Once we give our hearts to Christ, believing and trusting in Him alone for salvation, God says we become part of His family - not through the natural process of human conception, but through adoption. "So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into His family - calling Him 'Father, dear Father'" (Romans 8:15). Bringing a person into a family by means of adoption is done by choice and out of love. "His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure" (Ephesians 1:5)*

<http://www.christianadoptioncenter.com/christian-adoption/christian-adoption-bible.html>

## some things that your congregation can do:

- Pray for these children, that the Lord will be faithful in fulfilling His great plan for their lives.
- Pray for women facing un-planned pregnancies, that they may see adoption as a life-affirming option for their unborn child.
- Pray for families considering adoption, that they might hear the Lord's call to serve Him through adopting a child in need.
- Mentor a child/youth
- Support an adoptive family
- Give financially to orphan care and adoption ministries
- Be an advocate in your community for adoption and orphan care
- Consider adoption

# life affirming scriptures

*There are many verses of scripture that address various aspects of the sanctity of life issue.  
The following are just a sampling of these:*

## god is the author of life:

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NASB)

Genesis 21:1-3 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. (NIV)

1 Samuel 1:10-11 and 19-20 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." . . . Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the LORD." (NKJV)

Psalms 100:3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. (NIV)

Psalms 139:13-16 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. (NIV)

Isaiah 44:24 This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself. (NIV)



# life affirming scriptures

## clarity that life in the womb must be protected.

Jeremiah 1:4-5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: " Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (NKJV)

Luke 1:39-45 Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." (NKJV)

Luke 2:5-7 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (NIV)

Galatians 1:15-16 But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, (NASB)

## submitting to the sovereignty of god rather than relying on the wisdom of man.

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil. (NASB)

Isaiah 45:9-12 "How terrible it will be for those who argue with the God who made them. They are like a piece of broken pottery among many pieces. The clay does not ask the potter, 'What are you doing?' The thing that is made doesn't say to its maker, 'You have no hands.' How terrible it will be for the child who says to his father, 'Why are you giving me life?' How terrible it will be for the child who says to his mother, 'Why are you giving birth to me?' " This is what the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker, says: "You ask me about what will happen. You question me about my children. You give me orders about what I have made. I made the earth and all the people living on it. With my own hands I stretched out the skies, and I commanded all the armies in the sky. (NCV)

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (NIV)

1 Corinthians 3:16-20 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple. Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a "fool" so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." (NIV)

# life affirming scriptures



## responsibility to speak up for those who cannot defend themselves.

Psalms 41:1 How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. (NASB)

Proverbs 24:11-12 Don't fail to rescue those who are doomed to die. Don't say, "I didn't know it!" God can read your mind. He watches each of us and knows our thoughts. And God will pay us back for what we do. (CEV)

Proverbs 31:8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. (NIV)

Matthew 25:45-46 "Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."  
Responsibility of Christian leaders to present biblical truth.

Ezekiel 33:6-7 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.' "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me." (NIV)

2 Timothy 4:2-4 Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths. (NLT)

Acts 4:18-20 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." (NIV)

Acts 20:26-31 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (NIV)

# life affirming scriptures



## healing, forgiveness, and restoration

Psalm 32:5 So I confessed my sins and told them all to you. I said, "I'll tell the LORD each one of my sins." Then you forgave me and took away my guilt. (CEV)

Psalm 51:1-2 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. (NIV)

Psalm 103:8-13 The Lord shows mercy and is kind. He does not become angry quickly, and he has great love. He will not always accuse us, and he will not be angry forever. He has not punished us as our sins should be punished; he has not repaid us for the evil we have done. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who respect him. He has taken our sins away from us as far as the east is from west. The Lord has mercy on those who respect him, as a father has mercy on his children. (NCV)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NASB)

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (KJV)

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (NIV)

Hebrews 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (NIV)

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (NKJV)

# pro-life prayers

*Some prayers are given here that could be used in corporate worship settings, or other gatherings. The prayers given here may also serve as a means to provoke your own wording of prayers. In addition to these prayers, it is vital that consideration be given to developing a "one on one," type of prayer ministry that will help believers come along side people affected by abortion. The prayers below could help guide those prayers, but responsiveness to the specifics of each situation and the leading of the Holy Spirit would be paramount.*

## sanctity of life in the womb

Father,

we come before you today in awe of who you are. You always have been and always will be. You are the author of all creation. Your word tells us that the pinnacle of your creation is humanity. You created us male and female in your image. The birth of every child reminds us of these great truths, as well as reminding us of the value of every life. Help us to understand clearly, Lord, that the life of each child begins at conception, rather than at birth. Remind us Lord that it is you who establishes the value of each life, not us. Forgive us Lord for the times we have wavered on this and tolerated the idea that life in the womb becomes valuable when we want the child, but disposable when we don't want the child. Today we declare that we will be faithful to you in this, we will value each life, and we will minister in Christian love to women who are dealing with pregnancies under difficult circumstances, or post-abortive grief and guilt. Believing that each life is important to you, we want to celebrate each life. Use us Lord to protect life, while bringing glory and honor to you. Amen.

Father,

we are humbled today in your presence as we consider the sanctity of human life. We get so busy carrying out our plans, going about our work, pursuing our hobbies, and such things - that we forget that you knew us before we were formed in the womb and you have plans for our lives. We forget that we were knit together day by day in our mother's womb by your creative work. Help us Lord to remember that the development of the child in the womb is but just one stage in your grand plan for the life of that person. Whether the future holds a career in farming, or fine arts, being a doctor, or a builder of buildings, missionary, or inventor, mom, or dad, medical researcher, or computer software designer, or anything else --- it must begin with the days, weeks, and months in the womb. Help us Lord to grow in a deep understanding of the intrinsic value of each life that begins at conception. May we stand firmly upon your word and your will, rather than the ways of the world. As we stand for life, correct us, if we become judgmental of others, or insensitive to the needs of others. Rebuke us Lord, if our stand for life is mainly rhetoric and little ministry, or lacking in grace. Equip us Holy Spirit to faithfully do the work set before us. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Heavenly Father,

You are the great knitter - you put us together one loving stitch at a time. You knew us before the first stitch was taken. We pray for the mothers who right now are considering ending the life of a child you know but that they do not yet know. Intervene Lord. Send just the right person with the right words and actions to turn the hearts of these mothers. Let the mothers feel your presence and your love so that they will understand the love you have for their child. Prepare us to be your hands and feet, to be the person with the message of hope, love and faith that you have for these mothers and their children. Amen

# pro-life prayers

## post abortion healing

For all whose hearts ache from the sin of abortion,  
that God will soothe and heal us with the balm of his mercy;  
We pray to the Lord

For mothers broken by the memory of a child lost to abortion,  
that the gentle and merciful love of God may heal their  
innermost being;

We pray to the Lord

For everyone who is haunted by the memory of abortion,  
that they might know repentance, mercy, and peace;

We pray to the Lord. Amen

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

## children: born and unborn

For orphaned children throughout the world,  
and especially those

who are abused or neglected,  
that we might work to save them;

*We pray to the Lord*

For children who are unwanted by their parents,  
that God's grace might send others to love  
and care for them;

*We pray to the Lord*

For the children of our country,  
especially those who are forgotten or neglected,  
that their presence might remind us  
of the infinite value of human life;

*We pray to the Lord*

For every little child:

That we might accept and preserve each one  
as a sign of the infinite love of God for us;

*We pray to the Lord*

For all unborn children:

that our love for them may keep them safe  
until the joyous day of their birth;

*We pray to the Lord*

That the Lord,

who rescues the life of the poor  
from the power of the wicked,  
might send an angel to guard and protect  
all unborn children;

*We pray to the Lord*

For every little child  
and especially for those who  
live in their mother's womb,  
that they might grow

in the image and likeness of  
the God who made them;

*We pray to the Lord*

For the littlest child in her mother's womb,  
that in her life we may see the infinite love of God;

*We pray to the Lord*

For all children who have died from abortion,  
that God might cradle them in his arms  
and grant them eternal peace with him;

*We pray to the Lord*

For every child who lives in the womb,  
that God might send an angel to guard and protect  
the innocent and defenseless;

*We pray to the Lord*

For all unborn children,  
and especially for the babies of unmarried mothers,  
that God might send an angel to protect them:

*We pray to the Lord*

For the children who have died from abortion in our na-  
tion,  
and for their mothers and fathers,

for mercy, peace and the loving embrace of Christ:

*We pray to the Lord*

For little children

who await the birth of a brother or sister:  
that they may learn to cherish  
the child in her mother's womb;

*We pray to the Lord*

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# pro-life prayers

## conception to natural death

For a growing love of each human person  
from conception to natural death;

*We pray to the Lord*

That the life of every human person,  
from conception to natural death,  
might be enshrined and protected in our laws;

*We pray to the Lord*

For a growing love of God's little ones,  
in the womb, in the nursing home or at death's door.

That we might love with the love of Jesus;

*We pray to the Lord*

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## dealing with division that inhibits the church standing together for life

Lord, forgive us.

We seek division, You desire unity.

We want a reason to draw apart, You call us together.

We choose issues that divide, You desire harmony.

We search for reasons to reject and dismiss, You call us to include every one of Your children.

We want a small, perfect group, You want a crowd of imperfect people.

We choose to be separated from one another by differences we see, You want us to love unconditionally every one, every where.

Call us back to Your heart so that we can be reminded of Your love;

so that we can be rekindled in our love for Your creation - mothers, babies, fathers; so that we can be re-sent to share  
Your love to those who need to see it demonstrated.

Amen

Note: If this is being used as a corporate prayer that could be printed, have half the worshipers say the phrase before the comma and the other half say the phrase after the comma (or leader/people). This prayer could be followed by singing, "They will know we are Christians by our love.."

# pro-life sermons

Two sample sermons are included in this section. The first sermon is by author and pastor John Piper from Minneapolis, Minnesota. There are additional sermons by Pastor Piper on various aspects of the sanctity of life issue available at the website [www.desiringGod.org](http://www.desiringGod.org). Additional sanctity of life sermons, outlines, and ideas can be found at other websites such as [www.heartlink.org](http://www.heartlink.org) and [www.prolifetoolkit.com](http://www.prolifetoolkit.com)

## the baby in my womb leaped for joy

January 25, 2009, by John Piper

The aim of this message is to awaken and intensify your joyful, grateful reverence for the gift of human life from conception to eternity. The beginning of human life is a magnificent thing. There is nothing else like it. Only humans come into being day after day, created in the image of God, and live forever—with God or in hell.

There is no compelling evidence in the Bible or anywhere else that any animals come into being with souls, or that they live after they die. There is no compelling evidence in the Bible or anywhere else that angels are being created today. The only being in all the universe who keeps on originating and then living forever in the image of God is man.

### God's Image After the Fall and Flood

In the beginning, Genesis 1:27 says, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Then Genesis 5:5 says, "Adam . . . fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth." This was to show that the image and likeness of God is passed on from generation to generation. It was not just the first pair who were in the image of God.

Then in Genesis 9:6, Noah is warned by God, "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image." Even after all the wickedness, which was punished by the flood, the image of God is retained in man. Damaged, distorted, but stupendously real.

### God's Image Today

Then James 3:9-10 says, "With [our tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." From the first man and woman to each succeeding man and woman down to our own day, when human life begins the image of God begins. Eternal existence begins. That is why I say that the beginning of human life is a magnificent thing.

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands." (Psalms 8:3-6)

So I pray that this message will awaken and intensify your joyful, grateful reverence for the gift of human life from conception to eternity. The beginning of human life is a magnificent thing—it is the only newly originating life in the universe that is in the image of God. It is the only newly originating life in the universe that lasts forever. O what amazed and happy reverence we should feel for the beginning of every human life!

# pro-life sermons

## A New President, Trapped and Blinded

As everyone knows, our new President, over whom we have rejoiced, does not share this reverence for the beginning of human life. He is trapped and blinded by a culture of deceit. On the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, he said, "We are reminded that this decision not only protects women's health and reproductive freedom, but stands for a broader principle: that government should not intrude on our most private family matters."

To which I say . . .

- No, Mr. President, you are not protecting women's health; you are authorizing the destruction of half a million tiny women every year.
- No, Mr. President, you are not protecting reproductive freedom; you are authorizing the destruction of freedom for a million helpless people every year.
- No, Mr. President, killing our children does not cease to be killing our children no matter how many times you call it a private family matter. Call it what you will, they are dead, and we have killed them. And you, Mr. President, would keep the killing legal.

Some of us wept with joy over the inauguration of the first African-American President. We will pray for you. And may God grant that there arises in your heart an amazed and happy reverence for the beginning of every human life.

## Wonder in the Womb

This is Sanctity of Life Weekend at Bethlehem, and we are talking about the wonder of human beings in the womb, and the moral question of whether it is right to kill them before they are born. Until recently, there never has been any doubt in the mind of the Christian church that such killing is wrong. Among the earliest sources for Christian thinking outside the New Testament (the beginning of the second century), the *Didache* and the *Epistle of Barnabas* both forbid abortion. You shall do no murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not corrupt boys, you shall not commit fornication, you shall not steal, you shall not deal in magic, you shall do no sorcery, you shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill them when born. (*Didache* 2:2; cf. *Epistle of Barnabas* 19:5)

Why did the early church, and all succeeding generations of Christians, come to this conclusion—that it is forbidden to take the life of the unborn? We have already seen the root of this conviction: When a human life comes into existence something magnificent has happened—created in the image of God, to live forever.

## God Gives, God Takes Away (Job 1:21)

Another pointer for the church was that the Bible says God has sovereign rights over birth and death. When Job's children were killed by a wind that destroyed their house, Job fell on his face and worshipped God and said, "*The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord*" (*Job* 1:21). The Lord gave—they were conceived and born by God's act—that's his prerogative. The Lord took—that's his prerogative. Not ours. So the church has always shrunk back from intruding on the rights of God. He gives; he takes. Birth and death are his to grant, not ours.

## God Forms Persons (Psalm 139:13)

Another pointer was the profound conviction that what is happening in the womb is God's unique and sacred person-forming work. Psalm 139:13 puts this in terms of God's very hands-on work in the womb: "*You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*" *This is God's doing. Not ours. It is his to make. And his to end.* (See also *Job* 31:13-15.)

# pro-life sermons

## A Glimpse into the Womb (Luke 1)

But the pointer for the church that I wanted to focus on today is a glimpse into the womb that we get at several places in the Bible. Let's look at Luke 1. The situation is that Elizabeth and Mary are both given a child in the womb. Both pregnancies are miraculous. Elizabeth because she is too old, and she had always been barren. She becomes pregnant with John the Baptist. And Mary, because she is a virgin. But the Holy Spirit comes upon her, and she becomes pregnant with Jesus, the Son of God, who would one day die for our sins and rise again. Verse 24: *"After these days [Zechariah's] wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden."* Then in verse 26, Luke says, *"In the sixth month [that is, the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin."* So when Mary becomes pregnant Elizabeth is about 24 weeks along in her pregnancy.

## Nothing Impossible with God

In verses 36-37, the angel says to Mary, to encourage her that her impossible pregnancy really can come true, *"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. For nothing will be impossible with God."* So be encouraged, Mary, nothing is too hard for God. Witness the pregnancy of Elizabeth. O how often in these circumstances of pregnancy and infertility we need to be reminded, *"Nothing will be impossible with God."* He gives, he takes, he provides in abundance, he sustains in loss.

When the angel had gone, and Mary knew what was happening to her, she made a beeline to Elizabeth. What a consultation this would be: two of the most important and impossible pregnancies in the world. Look at verses 39-44: In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, *"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."* (Luke 1:39-45)

Now, of course, none of this is being written with abortion in mind. That's not the point. The point is: How did texts like these shape the way the church thought about the unborn? What were the assumptions here and the implications here?

Notice two things.

### 1. The Word Baby

First, the word baby in verses 41 and 44. Verse 41: *"And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb."* Verse 44: *"For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."* That word baby is not a specialized word for the unborn. It has no connotations of "embryo" or "fetus." It is the ordinary word for baby (Greek *brefos*). And what makes this crystal clear and significant is the way it's used in Luke 2:16. Here in Luke 1, it refers to John the Baptist in the womb. In Luke 2, it refers to Jesus in the manger. Luke 2:16: *"And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby (brefos) lying in a manger."* This is exactly the same word for baby.

What the Christian church has seen in this is that what the persons Jesus and John were outside the womb they were already inside the womb. Jesus was the God-man in Mary's womb. When the Holy Spirit (according to Luke 1:35) caused Mary to be pregnant, she was not pregnant with anything less than the Son of God. The baby inside was the same as the baby outside.

# pro-life sermons

Today science has only made that easier to believe, not harder. Ultrasound technology has given a stunning window on the womb that shows the unborn at eight weeks sucking his thumb, recoiling from pricking, responding to sound. All the organs are present, the brain is functioning, the heart is pumping, the liver is making blood cells, the kidneys are cleaning fluids, and there is a fingerprint. Yet virtually all abortions happen later in the pregnancy than this date.

## 2. Treated as a Person

The second thing to notice here in Luke 1 is the way the baby in Elizabeth's womb responded to Mary who was carrying the Son of God. Verse 41: "*When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.*" Then in verse 44, Elizabeth interprets that leap like this: "*Behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.*" And Luke says that Elizabeth said this because she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Verses 41-42: "*Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed . . .*" In other words, the Holy Spirit prompted her to say that this leap of the baby in her womb was a leap of joy.

To increase the significance of that leap even more, consider what an angel said to Elizabeth's husband Zechariah before his son was conceived. In Luke 1:14-15, the angel said, "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb." So that leap is not only a leap of joy but a leap of Holy-Spirit-inspired joy.

## Only Persons Are Filled with the Spirit

What shall we make of this? Never in the Bible is any animal said to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Never does the Bible say that a person's arm or leg or kidney or skin is filled with the Spirit. Tissue is not filled with the Holy Spirit. Only persons are filled with the Spirit.

What Luke is doing—and he is doing it as the spokesman of Christ—is treating this child in the womb as a person. He uses the word baby which he later uses for Jesus in the manger. He uses the word joy, which is what persons feel. He uses the phrase "filled with the Spirit" which is what God does to persons. He simply assumes he is dealing with a human person in the womb. And therefore so should we.

## Amazed at the Gift of Children

The beginning of human life is a magnificent thing. It is the work of God. It is the forming of a human person in God's own image who will live forever. Let there be at Bethlehem, and beyond, a joyful, grateful reverence for the gift of human life from conception to eternity. Never cease to be amazed at the gift of life—the gift of children.

## Desiring God

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# pro-life sermons

## move mountain!!

Taxes are high, fire is hot, ice is cold, sugar is sweet, lemons are sour, the earth is basically round, and human life is precious. The truth of these statements seems rather obvious and beyond dispute. You would not think it would be necessary to argue for the truth of any one of those statements. We are living in a country, however, where large numbers of national politicians say they will work to preserve the “right” of any woman to terminate her pregnancy at anytime for any reason. The highest court in the land approved this tragic view in the infamous Roe vs. Wade case in 1973.

Is this something that should concern the church? Absolutely! If we ignore, or neglect this issue we will be failing in our role to be witnesses for the One who created us male and female in His image. If we ignore, or neglect this issue, who will speak for those who are not able to speak for themselves? If we ignore, or neglect this issue, who will help those who are hurting because of the choice of abortion and need to experience the forgiveness, healing, and restoration that our compassionate Lord is waiting to give? – No one. ---- I have chosen two scripture texts, from Matthew 17 and Proverbs 31, for our primary consideration and there are four truths that these texts address that I want us to consider this morning.

First, we are reminded of the unshakable truth that human life is precious. Consider the Father’s testimony. As I read Matthew 17: 14- 16 try to hear what this father was saying and try to feel what this father was feeling.

*14When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 15“Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.” (NIV)*

We see here a moving example of a father’s great love for his child. We can only imagine the number of times he had to stand by helplessly as his son suffered through a seizure, or returned home from work in the field to see his son injured once again from a fall into the fire, or some other hazard that injured him. If there had been hospitals, or neurological specialists, this father would have traveled any distance and paid whatever amount was needed to get help for his son. This son was precious in the eyes of his father.

Wouldn’t we do as this father did for our own child, or our own grandchild? Certainly! Nearly every day we can hear stories of people who are going to great lengths for their children, or grandchildren. Do you think that this father in Matthew 17 only started to see his son as precious after he was delivered from his mother’s womb, or was there thankfulness and anticipation before his delivery, just like there had been for Sarah and Abraham, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and Mary and Joseph? What has been our own experience with our children, grandchildren, brothers, or sisters?

Another question that we must consider, however, and one that is more foundational is this: who decides if, or when human life is precious? Should that be left in the hands of the Democrats, the Republicans, the Independents, the Libertarians, the Supreme Court, or the individual? If you answered, “None of the above,” you answered correctly. It is God, and God alone, and there is no “if” or “when.” We could spend the rest of our time this morning proving this from the scriptures, but consider just three examples to hear the Father’s testimony: Listen to Genesis 1:26-27. *26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (NIV)*

Next listen to Psalm 139: 13- 16. *13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 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, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.(NIV)*

# pro-life sermons

And one more, Jeremiah 1:4-5. *4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "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." 4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "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."(NIV)*

The fact that it is God alone who establishes the value of each life is the truth that we must not deviate from, or compromise on. Obviously, not all people submit to this truth. Let's spend just a few moments considering the folly of the so called "pro-choice" argument. Consider the present legal reality in our country. On one day a doctor could intentionally fatally wound a baby that was a day away from delivery and get paid a large sum for his, or her services. The same day another baby can be delivered, a man could inflict a fatal wound a moment after delivery, and he would spend the rest of his life in prison. What was the difference between those two babies? The truth is there was no difference. They were both precious human beings. The Supreme Court, however, says that the first baby is not really a person who is due protection under the US Constitution. There is an uncanny similarity between the folly of that logic and the logic of the Supreme Court in 1857. Listen to this account, taken as I recall, from a PBS website:

In March of 1857, the United States Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, declared that all blacks -- slaves as well as free -- were not and could never become citizens of the United States. The case before the court was that of Dred Scott v. Sanford. Dred Scott, a slave who had lived in the free state of Illinois and the free territory of Wisconsin before moving back to the slave state of Missouri, had appealed to the Supreme Court in hopes of being granted his freedom. Taney . . . wrote in the Court's majority opinion that, because Scott was black, he was not a citizen and therefore had no right to sue. The framers of the Constitution, he wrote, believed that blacks "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit. He was bought and sold and treated as an ordinary article of merchandise and traffic, whenever profit could be made by it." Referring to the language in the Declaration of Independence that includes the phrase, "all men are created equal," Taney reasoned that "it is too clear for dispute, that the enslaved African race were not intended to be included, and formed no part of the people who framed and adopted this declaration. . . ."

It took a Civil War and another 100 years of civil rights work by people like Martin Luther King Jr. before the absurdity of this logic was exposed with great clarity. Let us hope that the absurdity of the 1973 Supreme Court decision will be exposed with great clarity before 100 years have passed and without a Civil War.

The second truth I want you to see is that those with strength and influence have a God given responsibility for those who are most vulnerable. Listen to scripture from Proverbs 31:1-9.

*1 The sayings of King Lemuel—an oracle his mother taught him: 2 "O my son, O son of my womb, O son of my vows, 3 do not spend your strength on women, your vigor on those who ruin kings. 4 "It is not for kings, O Lemuel— not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, 5 lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights. 6 Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish; 7 let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. 8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (NIV)*

The central idea here is that a king is not to be focused on looking out for himself, but he is to look out for his people – and most particularly he is to look out for those who are most vulnerable and least able to look out for themselves. The "drink wine" and "crave beer" references of verse 4 are obviously meant to symbolically represent all choices that are self indulgent, or focused upon looking out for self interest.

# pro-life sermons

In our day we can say that the government has a role similar to the role that was held by the king. The government has a high responsibility to look out for the vulnerable and those least able to look out for themselves. When we think of those referred to in verse 8 as "... those who cannot speak for themselves," our thoughts should certainly include the unborn child. Although the courts have said that the child in the womb is something less than a human being as we understand the term; good science, uncluttered reason, scripture, and good theology conclude otherwise. It can be said that the child in the womb is the epitome, or supreme example, of those who cannot speak for themselves.

As governments often do, our current government system is failing in this primary obligation of looking out for those who cannot speak for themselves. When governments fail in this way, it is up to the people to defend and speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and push for the critically needed change. Who should and must lead in this tremendous cause? ---- The people of God! Lest you doubt that the words of Proverbs 31 are applicable to you and me, listen to the words of our Lord in Matthew 25 from verses 40 and 45 in reference to separating the sheep from the goats at the day of judgment.

40" *The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'* 41" *Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42' For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43' I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'* 44" *They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'* 45" *He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'* (NIV)

It was Christian believers who courageously led in the great cause of ending the inhumane institution of slavery. This was the case in our own country, but before that it was Christian believers in England. The inspiring movie *Amazing Grace*, chronicled the life of William Wilberforce, a devoted follower of Christ and a member of the British Parliament, leading the way of abolishing slavery in England and its colonial empire. That movie gripped me and moved me to tears as it reminded me of the tremendous responsibility we have as believers to speak the truth and speak for those least able to speak for themselves.

It was Christian believers who courageously led the way in the great cause of ending racial segregation and discrimination just forty some years ago. Later on this afternoon there will be a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. over at Urbana University. I may be wrong, but I believe that King, who was an American Baptist pastor, would have taken a courageous stand to speak for unborn children. – From what I have been able to determine, however, it seems that a majority of leaders in the African American community are not on the frontlines of taking a courageous stand for those who are least able to speak for themselves. Thankfully, though, there are some who are speaking up. Listen to some words from Rev. John Raphael, an African American and chaplain of Howard University in Washington D.C. from a sermon he titled, "Silent No More":

"Do you know what the leading cause of death in the African American Community since 1973 is? Is it heart disease, cancer, accidents, or violent crimes? There is one possibility that is often overlooked. It has taken over 13 million black lives within the last thirty years. [More than the other causes combined.] What is it? Abortion! ... Although African Americans represent only 12% of the US population, they account for 35% of the abortions performed in this country. ... Currently in Congress every member of the Congressional Black Caucus identifies himself, or herself as "pro-choice. ... There are no African American voices raised in defense of the unborn in our nation's federal legislative branch." 1

Hopefully many more members of the African American community will speak courageously like Rev. Raphael, but whether they do, or not, others who claim to be followers of Christ must choose to follow his lead in being silent no more! We must let our elected leaders, and those who would like our vote, know that we expect them to fulfill one of their most basic responsibilities: to speak for and defend those who are least able to speak for themselves and defend themselves – not just in election year rhetoric, but in real action throughout their term of office. Fellow believers, we should never be one issue voters, but on this one issue there must be no wavering!

# pro-life sermons

Here is the third truth I want you to hear: by faith mountains can be moved. Let's return to our text in Matthew. The distraught father is kneeling before Jesus and he has just told Jesus that the disciples could not heal his boy. Listen to Matthew 17:17-21.

*17"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." 18Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. 19Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" 20He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (NIV)*

Why were the disciples not successful in bringing about healing for this boy? Was it because they were not able? Listen to Matthew 10:1, *"He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness." (NIV)* Their lack of success was not due to lacking the ability, or authority. Was it because they didn't have enough faith? We may at first interpret the passage this way, but that seems to be missing the point. Listen to thoughts of Michael Wilkin in his commentary on Matthew:

"The disciples themselves would declare that they have a larger amount of faith than the size of a mustard seed. So Jesus is getting them to look at the real nature of faith. It is not the amount of faith that is in question, but rather its focus. . . . That Jesus was not talking about the amount of faith in the disciples is indicated by the analogy to the smallest of seeds, the mustard seed."<sup>2</sup>

Wilkin is suggesting, and I believe he is correct, that Jesus was saying to his disciples that even by their "little faith" [vs.20] what seems impossible can be done. ". . . say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move." The implication here, which is clearly stated in places like John 16:23, is that we will be asking for things in Jesus' name - in other words, in accordance with His will. There's no need to think that Jesus expected to see the disciples going out and moving literal mountains around. Listen again to thoughts from Wilkin; *"Moving a mountain is proverbial in Jewish literature for doing what is virtually impossible. Faith simply means that if God calls a person to do something, it will be accomplished by His power and the person's obedience."*<sup>3</sup> If ever there was a mountain that needed to be moved, it is the so called "settled law" represented by the US Supreme Court's "Roe vs. Wade" ruling.

Was the demon possessed boy that the disciples encountered as they came down from the mount of transfiguration a particularly difficult case? Yes. Was his healing an impossibility? No. Is "Roe vs. Wade" a difficult case? Yes. Is overturning "Roe vs. Wade," or nullifying it an impossibility? No. It is time for believers to say, *Move Mountain!!* (Repeat ....) By faith let us say, *Move Mountain!!* Let us walk in obedience and write letters to our elected officials, pray, support ministries like The Sycamore House Pregnancy Center, and allow God to speak through you to persuade others to join you in choosing life and saying, *Move Mountain!!*

Here is the fourth truth I want you to hear: there is forgiveness, healing, and restoration for all who come unto the Lord. Whether it is the person who chose the way of abortion, the law maker who made it seem okay, the doctor who performed the abortion, the self-righteous person who has spent too much time pointing fingers, the nation that has condoned the practice of abortion, or the church that has done too little: there is forgiveness, healing, and restoration in the Lord. Each of those things that I mentioned are part of the fallen and broken world that we live in. On our own there would be just guilt and more darkness. We are not, however, on our own. Listen to Matthew 17:22-23.

*22When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. 23They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life." And the disciples were filled with grief. (NIV)*

Because of the Lord's love and because of His resurrection we know that there is life eternal and we can have assurance that the Lord has welcomed the children lost to the tragedy of abortion. We can also have assurance that, because of His love and sacrifice on the cross, repentant mothers, and fathers, and doctors, and law makers, and judges, and finger pointers, and complacent disciples are forgiven. The church, that is, the Body of Christ, is to be a sanctuary for the wounded: a sanctuary that provides for healing, restoration, hope, purpose, and joy. Let us not be a people who point fingers. Instead, let us be a people who reach out with open arms to welcome and love others as Christ welcomed and loved us.

Now is the time for the refrain of God's people to be, *"Move Mountain!!"* Now is the time for the church to rise up and say, *"Move Mountain!!"* Let the living Lord speak to your heart.

# resource index

## abortion

### Books and Packets

- Prolife Answers to Prochoice Questions, by Randy Alcorn  
available at most book stores and on Amazon.com
- The Sanctity of Human Life Guide  
From Focus on the Family; free download available at: <http://www.heartlink.org/beavoice/resources.cfm>

### Videos

- Maafa 21  
available at [www.maafa21.com](http://www.maafa21.com)
- Blood Money  
soon to be released, to purchase visit [www.bloodmoneyfilm.com](http://www.bloodmoneyfilm.com)
- Virtue Media  
available at [www.virtuemedia.org](http://www.virtuemedia.org)
- Being Human  
available at <http://www.coalitionforlife.com/index.cfm?load=page&page=184>
- Thine Eyes  
available at <http://www.thineeyes.org/>
- I Was Wrong -  
available at [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?productsid=1881](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?productsid=1881)
- Unborn in the USA -  
available at [http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?productsid=2196](http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?productsid=2196)
- Recommended Youtube Videos  
<http://ohiolife.weebly.com/videos-we-like.html>

### Brochures/Booklets

- The First 9 Months  
[www.heartlink.org/PDF/firstninemonths.pdf](http://www.heartlink.org/PDF/firstninemonths.pdf)
- A Baby's First Months  
[www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)
- Practical Things You Can do to Combat the Problem of Abortion  
[www.protectingblacklife.org](http://www.protectingblacklife.org)
- Did You Know?  
[www.protectingblacklife.org](http://www.protectingblacklife.org)

# resource index

Brochures/Booklets ctd.

- If Someone You Know Considers Abortion  
[www.lifecyclebooks.com](http://www.lifecyclebooks.com)
- You Have Choices  
[www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)
- The American Feminist- yearly publication  
[www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)

For a larger selection of pro-life brochurs, visit [www.daytonlife.org](http://www.daytonlife.org)

## abstinence

Web sites/Organizations

- Focus on the Family  
<http://www.focusonthefamily.com/socialissues/abstinence/abstinence-before-marriage.aspx>
- Pregnancy Decision Health Centers, Healthy Choices Abstinence Program  
614-888-8774 or visit <http://www.pdhc.org/doc/services/abstinenceeducation>
- ATM Education: <http://www.missthemess.com>

## adoption

Web sites

- Bethany Adoption Services - [www.bethany.org](http://www.bethany.org)
- Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Services - [www.snowflakes.org](http://www.snowflakes.org)

Videos

- From Youtube:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olBZ-kJ6XAc>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2CaBR3z85c>

## euthanasia

National Right to Life Background Information Resources

- What is it? <http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/index.html#DEFINITIONS>
- What's wrong with it? <http://www.nrlc.org/medethics/WrongwithASLegal.html>
- Arguments/Talking points <http://www.nrlc.org/medethics/DebatingAssistedSuicide.html>
- AMA Opposition to Euthanasia: <http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/AMARetainsOppositiontoAS.html>
- Terri Schindler-Schiavo: <http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/Terri/mythsvsreality.htm>
- Why we need legislation: <http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/QAModelNH.pdf>
- Will to Live: <http://www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/willtolive/docs/ohio.rev1105.pdf>

Web sites

- Nightingale Alliance: [www.nightingalealliance.org](http://www.nightingalealliance.org)
- International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force: [www.internationaltaskforce.org](http://www.internationaltaskforce.org)

# resource index

## embryonic stem cell research

National Right to Life Background Information Resources

- Stem Cell Research Fact Sheet: <http://www.nrlc.org/Factsheets/FS08StemCellResearch.pdf>
- Human Embryo Research Key Documents Home Page: <http://www.nrlc.org/killingembryos/index.html>

## pregnancy resources

Pregnancy Centers

- To find your nearest pregnancy center, visit [www.pregnancycenters.org](http://www.pregnancycenters.org)

Post-Abortive Healing Ministries

- Bethesda Healing Ministry - [www.bethesdahealing.org](http://www.bethesdahealing.org)
- The Elliot Institute - [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)
- Hope After Abortion - [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com)

Books

- Josiah's Journey by Connie McEldowney -

*Josiah's Journey is based on the true story of a young mother who struggles with the decisions facing her unplanned pregnancy. The story is told through the perspective of her young son, Josiah, as he grows inside his mommy. Josiah uses his humor and charm to share his great devotion to both his mommy and the Holy Trinity. Josiah's Journey is fulfilled when he meets his mommy face to face for the first time. Available directly from Connie by email at [mcfamilyfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:mcfamilyfarm@yahoo.com) or from [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com)*

Pregnancy Resource Web sites

- [www.knowledgeisempowering.com](http://www.knowledgeisempowering.com)
- [www.standupgirl.com](http://www.standupgirl.com)
- [www.nurturingnetwork.org](http://www.nurturingnetwork.org)

Life-Affirming Ministries and Pregnancy Centers

- Image Clear Ultrasound National: <http://www.icumobile.org>,  
1-877-ICU-NATL (1-877-428-6285), [info@icumobille.org](mailto:info@icumobille.org)  
Mail 2569 Romig Road, Suite 203B Akron, OH 44320
- Option Line: Pregnancy Hotline, 800-395-HELP, [www.pregnancycenters.org](http://www.pregnancycenters.org)
- Pregnancy Decision Health Centers: [www.pdhc.org](http://www.pdhc.org)
- Heartbeat International: [www.heartbeatinternational.org](http://www.heartbeatinternational.org)
- Carenet: [www.care-net.org](http://www.care-net.org)
- Birthright: [www.birthright.org](http://www.birthright.org)
- Women's Care Center: [www.womenscarecenter.org](http://www.womenscarecenter.org)

# resource index

## pro-life organizations and news resources

- Ohio Right to Life - [www.ohiolife.org](http://www.ohiolife.org)
  - The Ohio Life Wire (teen/young adult pro-life web site) - [www.ohiolife.weebly.com](http://www.ohiolife.weebly.com)
  - Ohio Right to Life PAC Website - [www.ohiovotesforlife.org](http://www.ohiovotesforlife.org)
  - Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/ohiorighttolife](http://www.facebook.com/ohiorighttolife)
  - Twitter - [www.twitter.com/ohiolife](http://www.twitter.com/ohiolife)
  - Youtube - [www.youtube.com/ohiortl](http://www.youtube.com/ohiortl)
- National Right to Life - [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org)
- Too Many Aborted - [www.toomanyaborted.com](http://www.toomanyaborted.com)
- King for America - [www.kingforamerica.com](http://www.kingforamerica.com)
- Black Genocide - [www.blackgenocide.org](http://www.blackgenocide.org)
- Life News - [www.lifenews.com](http://www.lifenews.com)
- Life Site News - [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com)
- Life Issues Institute - [www.lifeissues.org](http://www.lifeissues.org)
- Feminists for Life - [www.feministsforlife.org](http://www.feministsforlife.org)
- Live Action (Lila Rose) - [www.liveaction.org](http://www.liveaction.org)
- Americans United for Life - [www.aul.org](http://www.aul.org)
- Abort73 - [www.abort73.com](http://www.abort73.com)
- Susan B. Anthony List - [www.sba-list.org](http://www.sba-list.org)
- American Life League - [www.all.org](http://www.all.org)
- Priests for Life - [www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)
  - African American Outreach - [www.priestsforlife.org/africanamerican](http://www.priestsforlife.org/africanamerican)
- March for Life - [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)