

Faith and Politics
Abortion – Sanctity of Life

Good morning, everybody! Thank you for being here. We are super grateful you decided to be with us today.

If you're here for one of your first times...you're test driving us...feel free to kick the tires...ask any questions. Our teams here are amazing!

We are all about inviting everyday people to experience the hope of Jesus in every way!

Before we jump into today's message...let me champion a couple of things.

1. The Loop – 1st Sunday

You picked a really good day to be in church...We are diving into a new series today called Faith and Politics!

Some of you are nervous. Some of you are excited. Some of you may be thinking, why in the world would he do this.

I believe the church should be the safest place to talk about anything.

We are all real people, in a real world, facing real issues. We all have opinions and that's great, but if you are a believer in Christ....what He says, should be our filter for every single one of our opinions, including our political ones.

Here is what that means. **My faith filter must come before my political filter.**

We want you to be informed about what God says about today's issues.

What I have learned...there is always a yeah, but. "Yes, I agree with you, but what about this."

I have 30 minutes and cannot cover every, yeah but. I want to steward my time well and make this valuable for all of us.

If you weren't here last week, let me encourage you to go back and listen. Having the correct and strong foundation going into this political season is a must for us. Strong and stable foundation...winds come, no big deal. Weak foundation, winds come, crash. Quick review.

1. **Believe the Bible...and do what it says.**
2. **Believe Christ Alone** (Hope)
3. **Believe in a Kingdom Mentality**

Come from this foundation, framework, and filter. There are lots of reasons why this is crucial...but let me share one that I see as a huge factor.

There is nothing that divides like politics. The reason that's true is because nothing divides like fear.

Fear is a basic, emotional response to a perceived threat or danger. It triggers the body's 'fight-or-flight' response, leading to physiological changes like increased heart rate and adrenaline levels.

(BTW, I think this is why we don't seem to have any normal people in the political conversation.)

Both sides use fear:

Republicans are going to take away your opportunity to vote.

Democrats are going to take away your guns.

Both sides use fear to get you to come to their side. If you are not careful, you will fall victim to this.

If my foundation is right, I can remain calm because fear is just wind blowing against.

So...as we look into this election season. What are some of the top issues that we are seeing come up over and over? What are some of the policies that are bringing fear into the equation?

We are going to be covering several of these throughout the next few weeks. Today we are going to look at the topic of Abortion – Sanctity of Life.

(I will not be explicit, but we will be defining and having an in-depth conversation. If you have a child, you feel is not ready for that, I'm going to pray and that can be an opportunity for you to step out with them.)

Pray

What is abortion? Abortion has been one of the most controversial issues in American culture over the last 50 years.

There have been many ways of trying to define...medical procedure, surgery, health care, reproductive rights, etc. I think it is imperative to call abortion what it is.

Abortion I The guarantee of a dead baby.

(Basketball being called cardio or exercise instead of basketball)

1. What does the Bible say about abortion?

The Bible does not specifically address the issue of abortion, however there are many passages where we can see clearly what's Gods view of abortion is.

A. Life comes from God

Psalm 139.13-16 | For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. ¹⁵ My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

Without the benefit of ultrasounds and modern science, David penned these words in Psalm 139.

What we see here is very simple. **Life is life.** It is precious, whether one day or 100 years on this earth. Even within the womb, God sees life, values it, is the author, and has ordained all the days of its life just like he has with each of us.

God values every life.

Genesis 2.7 | ⁷ Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.

The creator literally breathed life into humans.

The climax of God's creative work was His extraordinary creation of man. The Bible teaches us that life comes from God.

B. Human Life is Sacred

The Bible stands strong for the protection of human life. It also cries against anyone attempting to take it.

Genesis 1.27 | So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Human life began when God shaped Adam in his own image.

Being made in the image of God is what gives human life its sacredness.

The image of God is present when a new life starts in the womb.

The Bible places a strong and strict prohibition against taking human life.
(Exodus 20) The 6th commandment – Thou shall not murder.

There were OT laws that had punishments for even causing an accidental miscarriage.

Exodus 21.22-25 | ²² “When men get in a fight and hit a pregnant woman so that her children are born prematurely but there is no injury, the one who hit her must be fined as the woman’s husband demands from him, and he must pay according to judicial assessment. ²³ If there is an injury, then you must give life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, bruise for bruise, wound for wound.

God considers a baby in a womb just as much a human being as a full-grown adult

To take a life at any point after conception is to kill one whom God has made in his own image.

Life comes from God; Human life is sacred...

C. Personhood begins before birth

Unborn infants are shaped by God
Unborn infants are known by God
Unborn infants are made in His image.

God has a plan for their lives. Many Scriptures affirm this: **Job 31.15 and Psalm 22.9**

Let me show you this real quick. The language is rich.

Psalm 139.16 | **Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.**

The Hebrew word *golem*, used only in vs.16 is sometimes translated as formless or unformed substance. Many scholars say it can accurately be translated as embryo or fetus.

This affirms our stance that personhood begins before birth. That developing child within a mother’s womb is a human who has the same potential as would a born child at any other stage of development.

Jeremiah 1.5 | **I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born.**

This is where we see some separation from culture.... For a Christian, abortion is not about a woman’s rights. It is about a baby that is already present and alive.

Abortion is a matter of life or death of a human being made in Gods image.

God views abortion as murder.

Abortion is the killing of a human being, created in the image of God.

One sentence: **The Bible consistently proclaims the utmost importance of protecting life in the womb.**

2. What do the candidates say about abortion?

Let's shift to the policies of the two choices we have in November. I encourage you to go do your own research on this as well. (This is where I may offend some today, but I ask you to hang in there and stay with me.)

Our Republican Candidate has moved from prior positions. He now supports a 15-week tolerance for abortions. After 15 weeks, nope. But before, yes.

CDC says 95% of all abortions are done within the first 15 weeks. A total abortion ban is now considered too extreme for many republican politicians.

Something to note and help understand this holistically...Republicans were responsible for getting the Roe Vs. Wade ruling reversed and giving each state the ability to vote and make their laws on abortion.

South Carolina - Abortion is banned as early as six weeks of pregnancy. The South Carolina Supreme Court upheld a "heartbeat" abortion ban in August 2023. (*13 states have total or near total bans.*)

Our Democratic Candidate says abortion should be legal, in all cases. She supports the legal protections offered by Roe v. Wade, which allowed for abortion access until the point of fetal viability (typically around 24 weeks), with many exceptions to continue having abortions after 24 weeks.

She has been very vocal on abortion and wants Congress to pass a national law codifying access to safe abortion. (*Federal government cannot overturn*)

Just something to note and to help understand the enormity of this issue...There was a mobile abortion clinic outside the DNC this year offering medication abortions.

We do not have a candidate in this race that is Pro-life.

The protection of life is not there like it used to be 30 years ago.

We have looked at what the Bible says, what the candidates say, and finally let's look at

3. What should the church say?

A. Make your vote count

Every election has always been about the lesser of 2 evils.

Don't sit this one out. Not because the world is going to end if you don't. It's an opportunity for you to stand up for what is right.

You know what it takes for evil to flourish? When the righteous do nothing.

Proverbs 14.34 | Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

The result of Christians sitting this one out, evil will rush in. As much as we may not like our choices...we have to stay engaged and use your vote for the most righteous choice in front of you.

B. Make your voice heard...by what they see.

Matthew 5.14-16 | "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven

When the church sees people the way God sees people, we take action.

Story 1 – Asked me to help pay for an abortion. (Shook me to my core) The need for a place of hope was birthed in my heart.

Story 2 – Post-abortion funeral (unforgiveable, low-class Christian)

We have a future vision here at CHC to create a Hope Center. A hub for community engagement. Part of our heartbeat for The Hope Center is to be an advocate for those feeling torn by this decision. To care for and love those who have made this decision and feel unlovable.

As a matter of fact...If you are struggling after an abortion or if you care about someone who has been wounded by abortion, we are here for you. Hope, healing, and peace can be yours again.

Support other pregnancy centers, adoption, one on one mentoring...the church can make a difference in this fight.

“We are the Bible the world is reading; We are the creeds the world is needing; We are the sermons the world is heeding.” — Billy Graham

Make your voice heard by letting the world see our good works...so that Jesus gets the glory.

Conclusion:

Our cultural decay will not be reversed by whoever is elected this November. My hope is not in a politician; my hope is in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Use your faith as your filter this political season.

You have a church who loves you and wants to help you strengthen your foundation.