

Do you know **WHY** you are Pro-Life?

SUGGESTED PASSAGE

LUKE 1:39-45

"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."

Elizabeth's preborn child, John the Baptist, recognized the presence of Jesus! For Elizabeth, this was a sign that there was extraordinary life in Mary's 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. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'"

MESSAGE GOAL

This sermon will help people understand exegetical truths of the value of unborn children and God's heart toward this particular injustice.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most common critiques of Christianity, and people of faith in general, is most religious people only claim to have faith because of their familial upbringing.

"Faith is passed on through the family. Most Christians don't even understand what they are believing. They are brainwashed into a belief system that they are blind to. If they truly understood what they were believing, they wouldn't have the faith they claim to hold onto."

This is a constant attack on people of faith from atheists and agnostics. I am here today to tell everyone in this room that this observation is generally valid on a national level. According to a recent poll by LifeWay research, only 22% of church-going Christians read their Bible every day. As a body, we lack hunger for the Word of God. The critics

have a valid point about people's lack of understanding. However, many have concluded that if people of faith read their Bible's more, then they would step away from their faith. I am here today to tell you that this conclusion is dead wrong. When you open your eyes and heart to scripture, your faith increases to new heights (Romans 10:17). You learn to see God rightly. You learn to see the world through the lens of the Cross. You learn to think differently. You learn to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. When you dig into the Word, and your faith increases, your heart breaks for injustice. Today, I believe that God wants to speak to us about the sanctity of life. I believe God wants us to understand what the Bible actually says about the Pro-Life issue.

A large number of people, including myself, began to support the Pro-Life movement because of their faith. For Christians, the Bible is the written, inspired Word of God. The Bible is the world's standard of Truth, and our lives should be built upon the doctrines and promises within the canon. It is phenomenal that the normative Christian belief system opposes abortion. However, it may be counterproductive, and even sometimes harmful, to be Pro-Life simply because "Christians oppose abortion." When someone asks you about your beliefs, you must be prepared to give an answer to them (1 Peter 3:15). It is a good thing that the Bible shapes your worldview, but it can be a harmful thing if you don't actually know what the Bible says.

Each Christian that opposes abortion should dig into the scriptures and find the truths that support a baby's right to life. Without **knowing** what the Bible says, our beliefs are not solidified, and we hold no credibility in the world. According to the scriptures, we are to be prepared to give an answer to anyone who questions our beliefs:

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."
1 Peter 3:15

Objective truth is a strength of the Christian Worldview. Let us not waste away our potential to transform hearts and minds. Let us know the Truth, and operate in the Truth.

SERMON POINTS

1 **THERE IS AN ATTACK ON SOUND, BIBLICAL TEACHING**

- a. As Christians, we are called to allow the raw Truth of the Scripture to mold our political stances. The unfortunate reality is that many leaders are pushing to allow politics to mold our biblical stances.
- b. Test every Spirit (1 John 4:1-6). The enemy memorizes scripture and is infamous for twisting scripture for evil purposes. When you hear someone using politics as a lens for reading scripture, a red flag should shoot up in your spirit.

2 **GOD VALUES LIFE IN THE WOMB**

- a. There are multiple references and statements throughout the Psalms that point to a clear narrative that God cares for the unborn (Psalm 51:5-6, Psalm 139: 13-16).
- b. The strongest argument for God's admission of pre-born value is displayed in the pregnancy of Mary, while she bore Christ in her womb (Luke 1:39-45)

- c. One of the most amazing contextual realities of this passage is the age of Jesus while he was in Mary's womb. Just a few verses before this exchange, an angel appears to Mary and gives her the message that she is pregnant. In the very same narrative, we see John leaping in his mother's womb as Mary approaches. One or two weeks into Mary's pregnancy, Jesus Christ was recognized with joy by another preborn baby. Elizabeth and her child recognized preborn Jesus as Lord. A preborn child, just a few weeks following conception, was honored rightly. And the presence of Jesus filled Elizabeth with the Holy Spirit.

3

THERE IS GRACE FOR THOSE THAT HAVE CHOSEN ABORTION

- a. If you are in the audience today, and you have chosen abortion, your past has been absolutely covered by the precious blood of Jesus. While we were STILL sinners, Christ died for us. Your transgressions were prepaid by His all-powerful blood. There is grace.
- b. If you have had an abortion, God can and will use you for His Kingdom purposes. Your past has not disqualified your future.
- c. If you have experienced abortion, allow God to use your story for abortion-minded and abortion-vulnerable women today. God wants to redeem your story, and use your life as an instrument to fight against the works of the enemy.

APPLICATION

God wants you to deeply understand what His Word says about this issue so that you can lovingly and humbly teach the Word of God to your peers. But more than that, God desires for His Church to get skin in the game. God wants us to DO justly (Micah 6:8). Whether you are a man or woman, young or old, you have a role to play in this movement. Support your local pregnancy center. Start an Embrace Grace group. Use your professional talents to support the Pro-Life movement. God has given you gifts for the sole purpose of Bride edification. The Pro-Life movement NEEDS your heavenly gifts. Through love, commitment, and consistency, we can see beautiful babies born. Through love, commitment, and consistency, we can watch women come to know their heavenly Father.

ALTERNATE/ADDITIONAL PASSAGES

JEREMIAH 1:4-5 & ISAIAH 41:9

Both Jeremiah and Isaiah reflect on their callings, and attribute the Lord's hand on their life from the time they were in the womb. There is clear continuity between prenatal and postnatal Jeremiah, and similarly with Isaiah. It is clear that both prophets implied in their writings that personhood begins in the womb.

JOB 3:3

In this verse, the moment of conception and birth are used interchangeably. We are not to imply that conception and birth are the same event, but we are to assume that biblical authors had a clear understanding from God that the conceived child and the born child are the same person.

GENESIS 25:22-23

Here within the womb of Rebekah, calling and election are spoken about in relation to unborn children. God relates to the unborn in this passage in a personal way. God shows understanding of

the unborn's strengths and giftings, furthering the idea that God values children from the moment of conception.

GALATIANS 1:14-17

In this passage, Paul briefly explains his conversion to Christianity. Paul discusses his call to preach the Gospel being given to him by God before birth. The unborn Paul was called to preach the Gospel of Christ. If God can place a calling on an unborn person, that person carries innate value.

The Bible is pro-life from the writing of the Torah to the apostles' life post-ascension. God is clear in his **compassion** toward the **unborn**.

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