

The Church Must Respond to the Injustice

SUGGESTED PASSAGES

1 TIMOTHY 2:24-25 | Passage that Correlates with Points of Messaging and Gentleness

“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-19 | Passage that Correlates with Point of God Using the Church Gifts in Pro-Life Movement

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?”

MESSAGE GOAL

This sermon will help people understand the importance of the Church's messaging, the Church's gentleness, and the Church's gifting in relation to the Pro-Life Movement.

INTRODUCTION

The Church of Jesus Christ is described as a "body" several times throughout the New Testament. This body is made up of many parts, and each piece has a particular function. The body only works efficiently and to its capacity when the parts of the body are in harmony with one another, and collectively taking action. These "functions" of the body are also called "giftings" in the Bible. The Church being compared to a body is one of the most profound pictures throughout the Bible, because it accurately describes the desperate need for unity throughout Christendom. Just like a human body, when one body part cannot complete its intended function, the entire body cannot perform to its potential. Under the head of Christ, the body is dependent upon each body part's willingness to perform their function. If you do not say yes to your calling, other parts of Christ's body are affected. Will you say yes to using your gift for the body of Christ?

I believe that this analogy works beautifully in the Christian pro-life sphere, and we should begin to think of the movement as a unified body. You do not have to be a Christian to believe that each person has specific giftings. People are naturally skilled and divinely bent in different directions, and incredible things happen when people maximize their giftings.

One of the most common traps that people fall into is that they choose to operate outside of their giftings so they may be accepted in their sphere of society. I want to be extremely clear when I make this statement: If you are not utilizing your God-given gifts to edify the pro-life body, you are dwindling our mission's capacity and effectiveness.

You are called, empowered, and gifted in particular ways. Women and their children cannot afford for you to be idle in your giftings. You were made for this!

The pro-life movement is a body of strong people with so many different giftings, but it seems that many parts of the body are too insecure to function in their designed way. These insecurities lead to being idle, which destroys the harmony in the body and makes it difficult to take the steps necessary for beneficial movement.

As soon as one person, or a group of people, refuse to invest their giftings into the pro-life movement, there is an automatic decrease in the reach of our message and resources. Your time, resources, and abilities matter more than you will ever know. This idea multiplies exponentially when a harmonized group of people become invested.

Whatever your gifting is, whether you are a world-class financial advisor, an innovative artist, or a great listener, our world cannot afford the absence of your gifts.

The greatest danger of idleness to the pro-life movement is that it restricts the body from its potential. Idleness decreases the number of women and children reached and impacted. We call ourselves a "movement," but our movement is

fragmented and sloppy without unity. Unity begins in the heart of individuals. So now, I am talking to you.

Choose to have the humility and confidence to invest your gifts into the pro-life movement. We are better together. We are stronger together.

SERMON POINTS

1 **REFINE YOUR MESSAGING**

- a. Examine your messaging in the Pro-Life movement. Using shame and fear as a rhetorical tactic to win a debate is highly counterproductive. Do you utilize shame and fear as a tactic?
- b. The goal of the pro-life movement is to make abortion unthinkable; it should be unthinkable because of the act's disastrous nature, and because women should **always** feel capable of having her child. Whether or not she chooses to parent the child, she should always feel capable of giving birth to her child.
- c. Consistently, the pro-choice movement implies that women are not strong enough, not smart enough, not developed enough, and not brave enough to have their baby. This is the fundamental lie of the pro-choice movement, and it is time that we expose this lie with love and hope. She is brave enough, she strong enough, and she is capable.

2 **BE STRATEGICALLY GENTLE IN YOUR SPEECH**

- a. People are bold behind screens. They fearlessly and carelessly shout their innermost thoughts without meditation or consideration. People become offended. People are influenced, people are hardened, people add to the white noise. Opinions become ingrained and personal, and there is a sense of attack at the moment of disagreement or question: screams, shouts, cries, laughs, and chaos. As I said, I believe social media is an excellent thing at its core. I think that it can be used as a tool for good in the world. But the most upsetting part about social media is that nearly every person wants to share their opinions, but very few people have ever changed their perspective while scrolling through their feed. It seems counterintuitive that everyone would sit in a circle, spewing different opinions and disagreements without any effort to understand each other; But on social media, this is what happens. We might as well talk to ourselves. I promise you; every pro-choice person has a rebuttal for your statistic. As a group of people pursuing the goal of making abortion an unthinkable option for women, we must have one thing at the forefront of our mind: **love**. To be pro-life is to be pro-love, and no one changes their mind in a screaming match.
- b. The true meaning of gentleness is not a shying away from the Truth. Gentleness means that you are able to speak the Truth while showing respect and understanding to the person that you are speaking to. People tend to listen to others that communicate with logic, gentleness, and love. We can't let our pro-life passion drive us into becoming obnoxious, hardened people. Our passion is a powerful tool, but we must steer it in a different direction, letting it drive us into strategic communication for the sake of women and the preborn. We must think and speak differently.
- c. Changing someone's mind rarely happens in a single moment. Perspective change is a process— a long process. And that is okay! Be nice. Let's build an army of love and kindness, and let's change the way our message is perceived. What would it look like if we were known for our love?

3

BE READY FOR GOD TO USE YOUR GIFTS

- a. God wants to use your gifting for His purposes. He wants to use your gift for empowering women and saving children. Simply put, are you willing to say “YES” to God’s call?
- b. If you are not utilizing your God-given gifts to edify the pro-life body, you are dwindling our mission’s capacity and effectiveness. **Ultimately, it is self-seeking, and a flavor of arrogance, to refuse to allow God to use your giftings for His purposes.**
- c. If God could use you and your gifts to usher in the lives of children, and to show women who they truly are, would you allow Him to? There is a heartbeat on the other side of your gifting. Lives are literally on the line. Are you ready to say yes?

APPLICATION

Give yourself the freedom to dream of ideas and trailblaze paths where you can utilize your gifts. Put up your phone or computer. Set everything aside for 10 minutes and write down how your gifting can empower women and save children. Write down how lives can be directly impacted by the utilization of your special calling.

Whether your gift brings a woman into the doors of a pregnancy resource center or uplifts a woman in a time of emotional turmoil— your gift matters!

Dream big, and then act on those dreams. Your potential for impact in this movement is even larger than you have ever realized.

Purchase *Help Her Be Brave: Discover Your Place in the Pro-Life Movement* book that has hundreds of ideas on how your church can help women be brave and choose life! Start a challenge at your church to inspire action in the movement by all your members!

prolovechurch.com

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