

COMMONWEALTH ★ ★ ★ POLICY CENTER ★ ★ ★

The Gospel and Abortion

Why does God care about abortion?

- God is the one who gives life (Genesis 2:7) and He intimately creates life (Psalm 139:13-14).
- God is also the one who sustains life (Colossians 1:17).
- Therefore, He is the only one who determines when to end life.

Is the fetus in the mother's womb a life?

- Yes, science supports that life begins at conception.¹
- Scripture explains that God intimately forms babies in their mother's wombs (Ps. 139:13-14, Job 31:15).
- He also knows every life before He forms them (Jer. 1:5)
- The Bible also says children are from the Lord and the fruit of the womb (Ps. 127:3).

Does the bible say abortion is a sin?

- While there isn't a specific verse that condemns abortion, the Bible does recognize killing a preborn child as a sin. Exodus 21:22-25 explains a situation where men are fighting, and they hit a pregnant woman. If the baby dies when she is hit, the one who hit her gets the death penalty.
- By implication, this means killing a preborn child is a sin.
- This also means the woman and the doctor are both in sin for the abortion.

Should pastors speak about abortion?

- Yes, because pastors are tasked with rightly dividing the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:15).
- Their job is to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:12) which involves, bringing them to maturity (Eph. 4:13) so that they aren't led astray by the culture (Eph. 4:14).
- Pastors are also called to preach the gospel and part of preaching the gospel is a call to repentance (Matthew 4:17, Luke 5:32, Acts 2:38, Acts 17:30, Romans 2:4.)
- This involves calling them to repent of specific sins, not sin in general (1 Cor. 6:9-11, James 1:21, 1 Peter 2:1.)
- Pastors who want to shepherd their flock well will call them to repent of all their sins, this includes abortion.

¹ "Life Begins at Fertilization with the Embryo's Conception," <https://www.princeton.edu/~prolife/articles/embryoquotes2.html#:~:text=Life%20Begins%20at%20Fertilization%20with%20the%20Embryo%27s%20Conception&text=%22Development%20of%20the%20embryo%20begins,together%20they%20form%20a%20zygote.%22&text=%22Human%20development%20begins%20after%20the,known%20as%20fertilization%20>.

How does the gospel speak to abortion?

- The beautiful truth of the gospel is that forgiveness is offered in Christ.
- The woman who had an abortion and the doctor who performed the abortion can both receive forgiveness for their sins in Christ. Their sins are washed away, and they are made right with God (1 Corinthians 6:11).
- They are also made into new creations, so their lives are made new and their past no longer defines them (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- It also means they can have comfort knowing that even in their sin, the child who was killed is with the Creator of the universe (2 Samuel 12:23).