



# How to Talk to People about Abortion

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There's no way around it, for most of us, talking about abortion is hard. It can be uncomfortable to discuss because it's a very emotional topic. And most people don't like making other people feel uncomfortable. Contrary to what some might think about me, I don't like making people feel uncomfortable either.

It's such a touchy subject that many pastors don't even address it from the pulpit. I've spoken to people who say to me, "I've been a Christian for 30 years. I attend a wonderful, strong, healthy, Jesus-loving local church. But I've never heard the topic of abortion talked about by the pastor in those 30 years."

How tragic is that? Abortion has claimed the lives of approximately 65 million children, in America alone. Worldwide, it's estimated that nearly 40 million eternal souls are killed by abortion – every single year.

Abortion is a massive issue, and as Christians, we need to be willing and prepared to talk about it.

What I'd like to do is equip you with the ability to talk about abortion to your friends – to give you tools for having conversation on the bus, at work, or at your family's Thanksgiving gathering.

A good place to begin is with this question: Why does abortion exist?

I believe there are two strong reasons why it exists. So let's look at each of them.

**First, I think abortion exists because of the sexual revolution.** The more I research about the sexual revolution, the more I am convinced that it has been the most consequential revolution ever experienced in history.

More significant than the French Revolution, more momentous than the Industrial Revolution, more staggering than even the Communist Revolution.

How could the sexual revolution have a wider and more significant impact on our world than these historical events?

*The sexual revolution strikes at the very core of a person's identity. What it means to be alive.*

You're seeing this play out in real time, in the woke movements of the LGBTQ+ community, with intersex distinctions. People are now refusing to identify themselves based on gender. You see this often on Instagram, where one of your best friends at work posts their pronouns on their profile. That is the latest version of the sexual revolution, and it's not over. In many ways it's only beginning. And its effects will be earth-shaking because it has to do with such a fundamental understanding of what it means to be alive... what it means to be human.

The sexual revolution has encouraged people to be more selfish, or more self-focused, by idolizing the tendency to be inward-focused. Notice who is putting pronouns on their profile. People who are thinking about themselves! They're not thinking about you. They're obsessing over their own identity.



The sexual revolution has actually caused humans to become more narcissistic. Because at its core, it's sexual narcissism. We are staring at ourselves in the mirror and saying, "What do I want to be today?" Like life is just a big dress up party. And the key word is "I." Whatever *I* want it to be.

**The second reason abortion exists and is practiced widely is selfishness.** There's obviously a connection between this and the first reason. But selfishness, or the cult of self, goes beyond the sexual revolution and sexual narcissism.

You can see this selfishness play out in the birth rate decline. There was a time in history when large families were the norm rather than the exception. Today we have all the technology to help us do everything... to make life easier... yet children are seen as a hindrance in the most comfortable era of human civilization!

How does that make sense? It doesn't. There's no reason for us to be selfish. We have so much to give. We have so much wealth and so many resources. But that's only led to people wanting to have more for themselves. And from that perspective, having babies gets in the way of getting more of what you want. That's why the birth rate today is the lowest it's ever been in the history of the United States. It's below the sustenance line.

That's why Elon Musk is talking about population implosion in certain areas of society.

From the obsession with self in the sexual revolution to obsession with self-fulfillment in our age of technology and ease, humanity has fallen into self-idolatry. And therein lies the issue...

The ultimate reason why abortion exists and persists is because of idolatry. We worship ourselves, and anything that gets in the way of our self-exaltation becomes disposable, unwanted... like a child.

And frankly, without abortion, the sexual revolution doesn't work. It doesn't work because without killing babies, the sexual revolution has consequences. The natural sequence of events fulfills itself.

You see, the primary purpose of sex is procreation.

Women's bodies are made for children. It's one of the most miraculous, beautiful aspects of creation. But young people are not being taught this aspect of sex education. Pregnancy is often treated as a haphazard byproduct of sex, even an unwanted one. Instead, children today are encouraged to have sex without understanding the purpose of it. But at the end of the day, our bodies will do what they're designed for. And when a male and female have sex, life follows.

In the past, if you got pregnant, you had to have the baby. Or you'd have a back-alley abortion, which was very rare. Don't let the pro-abortion crowd lie to you on that. Back-alley abortions were rare. But the point is simply this. In the past, you had to have the baby.

We changed that in the sexual revolution. We said, "You can have as much sex as you want. You can be as sexually narcissistic as you want. You can be as sexually chaotic as you want. And guess what? No consequence."

Now, people will try to argue that this is too black and white. They suggest the issue of abortion is actually nuanced. You have to weigh economic circumstances and emotional elements and sociological environments to understand why a person gets an abortion. I do not deny that those are real issues, but they have absolutely no bearing on the *morality* of abortion.



The situations might be complex, but the morality of abortion is not complex. It's very simple.

And as a Christian, you must be equipped to articulate the simple reasons you believe in the sanctity of life from conception to death. Let's consider three that stand out:

### **Number One: The Reality of the *Imago Dei***

*Imago Dei* is a Latin phrase meaning the "image of God." Genesis 1:26–27 says,

*Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

*So God created mankind in his own image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.*

There's a sanctity to the image of man, because the image of man was made in the image of God.

Genesis 9:6 says, "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind."

This verse exists because people were killing each other. God said, essentially, "When you kill a person, you are blaspheming against my image. You are committing a sacrilege against my sacred image." God forbids murder, and actually punishes murder with the death penalty, because of the gravity of murder, of violating the *Imago Dei*.

This doctrine that the church has always taught, that the Bible teaches, establishes that every human life has intrinsic value because it bears the image of God, the eternal creator. The key word there is intrinsic. It comes with the package. It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from, or what you do, you are made in the image of God.

Some countries have what's called a caste system. So, if you get hit by a car and you're a part of the upper caste, the person who hits you has to pay a lot more money than if you were of a lower caste because your value isn't the same. Your value as a human depends on your social standing.

This isn't what the Bible teaches. According to the Bible, a caste system can't diminish, dissolve, or overrule a person's intrinsic value. It's the same for everyone because everyone bears the image of God. The smartest person in the room is just as valuable as the least intelligent person in the room. The person with the highest IQ has the same value and dignity as the person with the lowest IQ. This is what the Scripture teaches.

God does not see anything other than the value that He's placed on humanity. And that's why Jesus died for everyone. He died for the whole world, all the sins of the world. He didn't just die for a select few that He thought were the best.

A college professor once posed a scenario to his class. He said, "A man has syphilis and his wife has tuberculosis. They have had four children. One has died. The other three have a terminal illness. The mother is pregnant. What do you recommend?"



After a spirited discussion, the majority of the class voted that that woman should abort her child. “Fine,” said the professor. “You’ve just killed Beethoven.”

This thought exercise illustrates an important point, and a strong argument against abortion. Steve Jobs was adopted. His mom could have killed him, she could have had an abortion. John Lennon too, along with countless others.

Think about this for a moment. How many Beethovens have we killed? How many Steve Jobs have we killed? How many John Lennons have we killed through abortion?

I remember hearing an anecdote about Mother Teresa and Hillary Clinton. I don’t think it’s true, but it’s good food for thought. Hillary Clinton said, “Mother Teresa, where are all the women leaders? Why aren’t there more women leaders in our society?” And Mother Teresa turned to her and said, “We’ve aborted them all. That’s why they don’t exist.”

A sober thought.

James 3:9 says,

*With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness.*

We abort people made in the image of God. And not only are we made in God’s image, but we are made by God himself. Look what Jeremiah 1:5 says,

*“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.”*

God forms babies in the womb. He knows each and every one, even the aborted ones. All life comes from God, regardless of how it’s wasted.

Now, some may say, “That’s just your reading of the Bible.”

But that has historically been how Christians have interpreted Scripture. Which brings us to the second reason you should defend the sanctity of all life as a believer.

## **Number Two: The Historical Witness of the Church**

Tradition can be powerful, especially when it represents the faithful witness of godly men and women throughout the 2000-year existence of the Church. And when it comes to abortion, the Church has never wavered in its view of this issue: It’s wrong.

Not only does this view reflect the orthodox view of God’s people over the millenia, but the Church has also acted upon this conviction. Do you know where hospitals came from? St. Basil the Great, who is a church father, founded the first hospital in A.D. 369. That’s why hospitals often have the names of saints. Hospitals are Christian ideas.

In the pagan world, if you were sick, they would say it was because the gods didn’t like you. If you were really sick and there was no money to hire a doctor, they would say, “Tough luck. That’s your problem to deal with.”



That's not what we see with Jesus. Jesus' heart went out to the masses of beggars and lepers and people with all sorts of illnesses... and He healed them!

So hospitals, hospices, the vocation of nursing, emergency relief organizations, the Red Cross... all these things are a product of the Church. Early Christians were devoutly attached to helping the poorest, the people most in need.

This may not seem directly related to our stance on abortion, but it shows that the Church has treated human life as something holy, to be protected and preserved, regardless of position or status. But there is plenty of evidence in Church tradition for opposing abortion specifically.

The *Didache*, which was a first century document, a catechism course for new believers, taught this: "The second commandment of the Teaching: you shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not seduce boys, you shall not commit fornication, you shall not steal, you shall not practice magic, you shall not use potions, *you shall not procure an abortion nor destroy a newborn child.*"

This is a Christian catechism course in the first century... a sort of "next steps" for new believers... and it clearly teaches that abortion is wrong.

### **Number Three: Science Agrees with Scripture**

Embryologists have concluded the matter of when human life begins, and it's clear-cut.

Keith Moore and Mr. T.V.N. Persaud, in the book *The Developing Human*, say this,

Human development begins at fertilization, when a male gamete or sperm unites with a female gamete, to form a single cell, a zygote. This highly specialized totipotent cell marked the beginning of each of us as a unique individual.

The zygote is a "highly specialized totipotent cell marking the beginning of each of us as a unique individual." It is not the skin cells of a woman, as some suggest. Skin cells don't turn into babies. Women don't give birth to elephants. They give birth to human children.

T.W. Sadler and Langman's *Embryology* say,

The development of a human begins with fertilization. A process by which the spermatozoon from the male, and the oocyte from the female unite to give us a new organism called the zygote.

Think of it this way. What is a baby? A child? A teenager? What's a young adult? Are those words markers for the value of a person as they develop? No, they're markers for the process of a human as they develop.

Likewise, the word zygote, embryo, and fetus, which is Latin for infant, are not markers for the value of human development. They are terms to mark the process of human development. Just like we say it's a baby, or it's a toddler, or it's a child, or it's a teenager. You're not less valuable because of that. In fact, the only modern regime to say that you're less valuable based on those developmental markers was the Nazis.

So the science is in. There is no doubt that human life begins at conception, which means ending life at any point after conception is murder.



Which is why the morality of abortion is simple.

However, addressing abortion both personally and corporately requires tact, wisdom, love, and truth.

First, if someone has had an abortion, the best thing you can give them is the gospel of Jesus Christ – because the redeeming power of the gospel has no limitations. It can cleanse anyone of any sin, if it's repented. First John 1:9 says,

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

There's not one thing that you have done that God cannot cleanse you from, including abortion. The message of the Church to those who've had an abortion cannot be condemnation – because that's not the message of the gospel.

So always lead with grace and hope of the gospel.

Second, recognize that Christians have a corporate responsibility to address abortion. As a nation, we've allowed abortion to continue unchallenged for too long. Thank the Lord for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, but abortion has not been ended in the U.S. Christians must confess and repent of our shared refusal to always address this national sin head on.

Psalm 94:8–10 says,

*Take notice, you senseless ones among the people;  
you fools, when will you become wise?  
Does he who fashioned the ear not hear?  
Does he who formed the eye not see?  
Does he who disciplines nations not punish?  
Does he who teaches mankind lack knowledge?*

God disciplines the nations, even His own people. He will discipline us.

Christians are to be salt and light in a world that is confused. We are to bring moral clarity in a fog of immorality. Jesus says in Matthew 5:13, "But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." If we are too cowardly to bring this up and talk about this primary issue, God will hold us accountable for cowardice.

Lastly, consider the word of the Lord to Israel in the wilderness. In Deuteronomy 30:19, God says to Israel through Moses,

*"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."*

It's a time to rally, not run away. It's a time for action. For the sake of the lives of generations to come, it's time to choose.

**Take Your Study Further**



*For biblical passages about the sanctity of life: See Genesis 1:27, Genesis 9:6, Jeremiah 1:5, Job 31:15, Psalm 127:3, Psalm 139:13–16, Luke 1:41*

*For verses about speaking the truth: See Proverbs 12:17, Psalm 15:2, Zechariah 8:16, 2 Corinthians 4:2, Ephesians 4:15*

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