



## Christian Voices for Life

### Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

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### Three Church Messages that Can Prevent Abortion

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**Education:** In a 2015 survey of 1,038 post-abortive women, 43% said they attended a Christian church at least once a month, and 20% attended at least once a week. Only 7% said that they discussed their abortion decision with anyone at church, and 52% said no one at church knew about their abortion. (1) Even women who had been pro-life can still be sorely tempted to abort in difficult circumstances. Being pregnant outside of marriage is at best an embarrassment in a church community, and there is

often a perceived, if not real, risk of being ostracized and condemned. They may know abortion is wrong but still feel that the consequences of continuing the pregnancy are just too difficult to face. Some may presume on God's forgiveness after the fact. Parents of pregnant teens or young women may feel extremely threatened by the embarrassment in the church community as well as the burden of helping the young mother, and push for abortion.

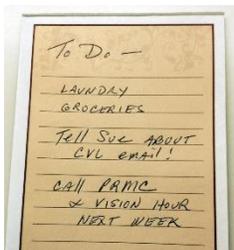
Churches must communicate first of all that while sexual sin is not condoned, it is not ours to judge but to welcome every child as a gift from God, and help mom to care for her child. We are all sinners; hers is just more visible than ours. Secondly we must counter the world's view that abortion is a right, with the truth that it is wrong. One woman expressed "...if I had heard at church that abortion was wrong...I might have chosen to keep my baby rather than kill my baby."(2) And while we assert that abortion is wrong, we have compassion for women who have aborted, recognizing the strong pressures or coercion they may have experienced, assuring them of God's forgiveness, and offering them healing. (2)

1. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/70-of-women-who-get-abortions-identify-as-christians-survey-finds-150937/>

2. "A Clergyman Answers the Fears Pastors Face as They Address the Issue of Abortion", <http://www.priestsforlife.org/brochures/facefearsecumenical.html>



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please help all pastors to overcome whatever hesitations they may have about preaching about abortion. Let them have the courage to proclaim the message of the sanctity of life as well as compassion for women. Help them resist the pressures they may feel to avoid the subject. Help them to understand that post-abortive women will not be helped by silence. Silence may on one hand encourage their denial that abortion was wrong, delaying their reconciliation and healing. Or it may lead them to believe that abortion is the unforgivable sin, or that the church does not care about the pain she is experiencing after abortion.



**Action:** If your pastor doesn't talk about abortion, ask him why. Bring him a copy of a letter I wrote to area pastors, which is available [here](#). Think about how your church could minister to pregnant women in difficult situations, making it clear that they will be accepted and loved in that circumstance. Learn about the pregnancy help center nearest to you, and be aware that you can refer both women considering abortion and those who are suffering after abortion to OptionLine.org or 800-712-HELP for help.

She can speak or chat with someone immediately (Eng/Sp) and then be referred to local help.