



# Christian Voices for Life

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[www.ChristianVoicesForLife.org](http://www.ChristianVoicesForLife.org)

Dear Pastor,

Science is quite clear that every human life begins at fertilization, when egg and sperm join together to form a new human being. The bible is clear that every human life is created by God in His image. The bible also calls Christians to protect innocent life.

“Did you fail in a day of adversity, did your strength fall short?

Did you fail to rescue those who were being dragged off to death...?” Proverbs 24: 10 -11

Mothers also suffer from abortion with guilt, depression, relationship problems and more. (See <http://www.rachelsvineyard.org> and click on Emotions). Loving both mother and child means helping them both to get through whatever difficulties they are facing.

You may already be aware that abortion is wrong and hurtful, but perhaps you are uncertain how to address the issue in a sensitive way considering the number of post-abortive women who are undoubtedly among your congregation. **The problem is that silence on the topic of abortion can contribute to more abortions.**

About 70% of American women having abortions identify themselves as Christian, 43% reported attending church at least once a month, and 20% attended at least once a week. (1)

Christian women are well aware that pregnancy outside of marriage constitutes public evidence of sexual sin. According to a survey of post-abortive women, the most typical reactions they were expecting or had experienced from the local church at the time of their decision were “judgmental” or “condemning.” (1)

How can a local church speak out in a way that will prevent women in their own congregation from turning to abortion?

Three clear messages, given regularly, can together greatly reduce the likelihood of a member of the congregation choosing abortion.

1. **We will not judge or condemn an unmarried pregnant woman.** We are all sinners; her sin is just more visible than most others. We have no right to assume that her sin is continuing or that she has not repented. Individual counseling is done privately. We will accept her and celebrate the life God has created within her. We will do what we can to make her path easier and to help her to provide her child with a good home, whether through parenting or adoption. We will not encourage abortion; we want everyone to know about [OptionLine.org](http://OptionLine.org) (available 24/7 in English and Spanish) and the local pregnancy help center\* that is equipped to help women with her decision and with alternatives to abortion.
2. **Abortion is wrong.** The world is proclaiming in a loud voice that abortion is a woman’s right. The church must teach that it is wrong. It is a woman’s right to give birth to her child; to follow her God-given maternal instinct to nurture her child. Others are often pressuring her to abort; she needs encouragement to find an alternative solution.

"I can't help but think that if I heard in church that abortion was wrong...I might have chosen to keep my baby instead of killing my baby." From a letter to Priests for Life. (2)

3. **We will also not judge or condemn women suffering from past abortions.** We acknowledge that temptation and pressure to abort can be very strong. None of us can say what we would do in her shoes if we have not been there. In fact, **the majority of abortions are unwanted or coerced.** (See "[Forced Abortion in America](#),".)

When the adulterous woman was being stoned, Jesus did not condemn her but simply said "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." (John 8:11) The bible also says "Judge not, that you be not judged." (Matt 7: 1) "...while it takes the blood of Jesus to deliver us from guilt, it takes the acceptance of others to deliver us from shame." - Kathy, a post-abortive woman.

"Twenty years ago I had my abortion. The week before I had my abortion, I was sitting in my seat in my pew at my church. The week after my abortion I was sitting in my pew at my church. For the last twenty years, I've sat in that same seat, in the same pew. Never once has there been a message in our church offering hope and healing, and as a result, I assumed [abortion] must not only be the unspeakable sin, but therefore it must be the unforgivable sin." (3)

Jesus not only forgives but offers healing. Confidential healing programs can be of great help (see [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org)). Healing can prevent women from falling into a pattern of repeat abortions, and hearing about post-abortion pain may prevent other abortion decisions.

Pastor, please prayerfully consider what God wants you to tell your congregation regarding abortion. These additional resources are also available:

1. <http://www.priestsforlife.org/preaching/index.aspx> includes "Preaching on Abortion: A New Overview" and "Addressing Abortion with Confidence" in Catholic, Ecumenical and Spanish versions.
2. <https://savethestorks.com/2017/08/5-fears-keep-pastors-preaching-abortion/> Includes responses to those fears and a link to CareNet resources to educate yourself about abortion.
3. <http://afterabortion.org/jericho/index.htm> This page includes access to 3 chapters of the book *Jericho Plan*. One chapter includes sample sermons.

Your sister in Christ,



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\* Local pregnancy centers are Pregnancy Resource Medical Center in Rosenberg ([www.prmcfortbend.org](http://www.prmcfortbend.org)) and Women's Pregnancy Center in southwest Houston ([www.wpchouston.com](http://www.wpchouston.com))

1. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/70-of-women-who-get-abortions-identify-as-christians-survey-finds-150937/>
2. <http://www.priestsforlife.org/brochures/facefearsecumenical.html>
3. A "Silent No More" testimony given at a pastor's summit in North Dakota; story told by David Bereit at Anglicans for Life Summit 2018.