

Handle with Care Abortion

We contend for all life. When it comes to difficult and weighty issues of our day, like abortion, we must look to Jesus as our example. He was full of grace *and* truth, accepting people without affirming the sins in their lives (John 1:14; 8:5-11). He showed people their worth and value while also offering them opportunity to change. This is a model for how the church should respond to those who have chosen or experienced abortion. When it comes to the unborn, Scripture sees those in utero as no different from babies who have already been born. The being in a womb, according to the Bible, is a defenseless human person of great value and potential. And because the enemy is out to destroy *every* life, abortion not only robs life from the unborn but also robs life from the parents as well. Thank God that He offers forgiveness, healing, and freedom. There is no condemnation in Jesus (Romans 8:1). Instead, He graciously heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds (Psalm 147:3).

GET THINGS STARTED

Jesus accepted and loved people without affirming the sins in their lives. What is the danger of abandoning grace and love in the name of truth? Why is it hazardous to compromise truth for the sake of being gracious and loving? How have you seen either (or both) of these extremes played out in a difficult situation or challenging relationship?

GO DEEPER

1. In John 8:5-11, how did Jesus distinctly treat and address the woman caught in adultery? How might this example be applied to someone who is either contemplating abortion now or has chosen abortion in the past? What do Romans 8:1 and Psalm 147:3 reveal about the heart of God towards those in these difficult situations?
2. From John 1:14, what does it mean that Jesus was full of both grace *and* truth? What does it look like to accept people without affirming the sins in their lives, contrary to the cultural view that love means we affirm and endorse people's choices or lifestyle?
3. What do passages such as Luke 1:14-15 reveal about the Bible's perspective on the unborn (see also Genesis 25:21-22, Luke 1:41 with Luke 2:16, Job 31:13-15)?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. When talking about difficult issues or subjects like abortion (or gender identity, LGBTQ+, politics), how well do you walk in grace *and* truth? Which one do you tend to lean towards, especially when a conversation or situation gets heated or challenging for you personally?
2. How have you been affected by abortion directly or indirectly? What is your perspective on abortion, and how have you or might you respond to someone who is contemplating abortion now or has chosen abortion in the past? How can you be a voice of grace *and* truth?
3. What do you think should be the church's response to abortion and to those facing either an unwanted pregnancy now or dealing with the aftermath of an abortion?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time in prayer to thank God for the righteous overturning of Roe v. Wade. Ask Him for more righteous decisions within our national, state, and local governments. Ask Him also for an ever-increasing ability to respond to difficult issues, like abortion, with grace and truth. Pray for an outpouring of revelation in what grace and truth looks like and how to walk those out, especially with those wrestling with an unwanted pregnancy or recovering from a past abortion.