

Tips for giving prolife sermons

Be emphatic and loving. The prolife position is scriptural; however, some may say they are pro-choice, not knowing the damaging ramifications for many women. Offer to talk with anyone who is feeling the after-effects of abortion or is in a crisis pregnancy. Let the congregation know that there is someone to help them in their time of need.

Remind listeners of Christ's forgiveness. The good news of the Gospel is that we can be saved and that sins can be forgiven by God. People who have been involved with abortions need to know that forgiveness can be found and that peace can be attained.

Speak on supporting the prolife movement in other ways. A way to show that the prolife movement is worth more than a sermon a year is to have the church support a crisis pregnancy center with financial help, volunteers, and needed baby items. Crisis pregnancy centers work to save unborn children by helping women who are in need of help. This is a worthy outreach that many congregations would willingly support.

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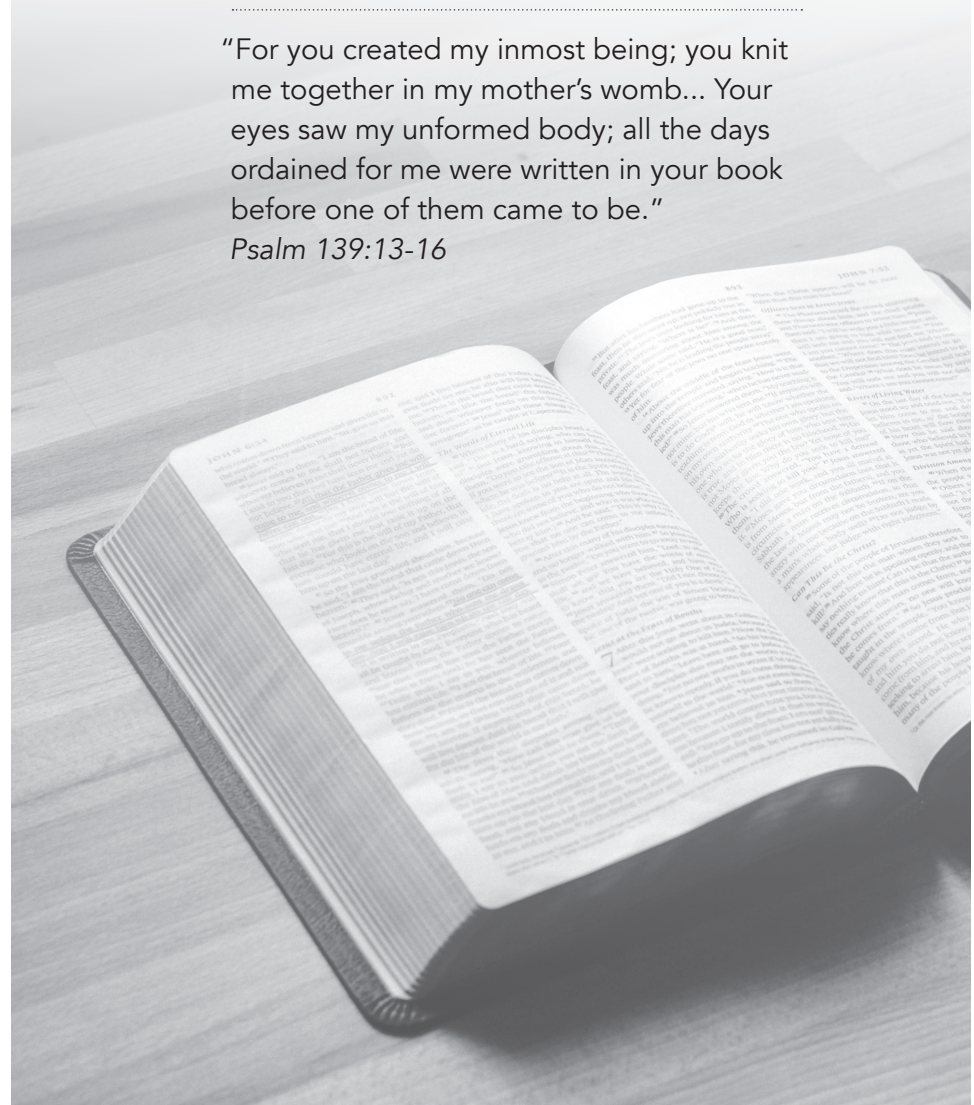
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PREACHING THE Prolife MESSAGE

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb... Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Psalm 139:13-16



Speaking out on prolife issues is important

The importance of church leaders speaking out on prolife issues cannot be understated. When a congregation knows that abortion is wrong and healing from past abortions can be experienced, a true respect for all life can be achieved. By remaining silent and inactive on the issue of abortion, a church may continue the pain of hurting women and men.

In today's society, the unborn are the most defenseless and neglected group. The womb has become a place of unpredictable terror instead of a safe haven for developing babies. A stand must be taken by church leaders with each congregation standing, too.

Many church leaders shy away from life issues. Church leaders are often wary about preaching on prolife issues since they have logical fears. Will preaching on abortion cause the church to lose pro-choice members? Or divide the congregation? Will post-abortive women be offended? Is this considered theologically conservative?

Some people might be struggling with this issue, and a sermon from a trusted authority figure might help them make up their minds. A caring, well-thought out message might be able to change the opinions of others. Some women might even be considering an abortion, and a prolife message could persuade them otherwise, directly saving the life of an innocent child.

The truth must be preached

This might hurt or offend some, but a church must focus on the spiritual truth, not the opinions of the secular world. Faithfulness to the word of God is the most important reason for speaking out on abortion and life issues.

More than 1 million abortions are performed in the United States each year. Nearly everyone knows of a friend or acquaintance who has had an abortion. Abortion is viewed by many in society as a solution for an unplanned pregnancy.

Silence on abortion and life issues can send the wrong message to the congregation. Clearly speaking out against abortion with love will highlight the sanctity of human life. This is a message which needs to be preached so no confusion can be found.

Should I really address a political issue?

Some people say that abortion is a political issue and the church shouldn't get involved. However, every abortion takes the life of an innocent child.

Abortion is a moral issue.

The Bible teaches us that mankind is made in God's image (Gen. 1:27, James 3:9); God knows a person before birth (Ps. 22:10, 139:15 Gal. 1:15); children are a gift and a reward (Ps. 127:3); and we need to protect and help those in need (I John 3:17). This is not a one-verse-argument against abortion but a theme throughout the Bible.

Others may argue that abortion is legal, so who are church leaders to preach against it? Just because something is legal that doesn't make it right. Church leaders don't need to do a critique of how *Roe v. Wade* was a constitutionally unsound decision, they simply need to share with their parishioners the verses of scripture that show us that God doesn't tolerate innocent lives being extinguished. Abortion may be part of the political landscape, but it is primarily a moral, spiritual and religious issue that must be within the Church's realm of influence.

Will I hurt the feelings of women who have had abortions?

Post-abortive women would probably be hurt if a church leader called abortion murder or called all women who have had abortions murderers. However, if a church leader relayed the message of forgiveness and grace in a compassionate and loving way, many post-abortive women would be positively influenced. The post-abortive women in each congregation may realize others empathize with their pain and guilt and are open to helping with the healing process.

Dr. Phillip Mango in *The Consequences of Abortion and Their Treatment*, (August, 1990) says, "We can help her on the path to healing by proclaiming the truth about abortion and the reality of forgiveness. When we address abortion, it tells her, we care. Our silence tells her, we don't care." We need to emphasize that we are against abortion; not against women who have had them or men who have encouraged women to seek abortions.