

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 or having compassion for their unborn brothers and sisters. 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 who can be relied on to listen and help.

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 and redemption are not beyond reach.

Speak on supporting the prolife movement. One way to show the prolife movement is worth more than one moral message a year is to have the church support a pregnancy help center with financial help, volunteers, and needed baby items. Pregnancy help centers are worthy ministries which work to save unborn children and help women.

Contact Us

Contact any of our educational resource centers for materials and brochures to have on display. Please visit RTL.org and click on the "Faith" tab in the "Resources" menu to find other free resources including presentations and handouts.

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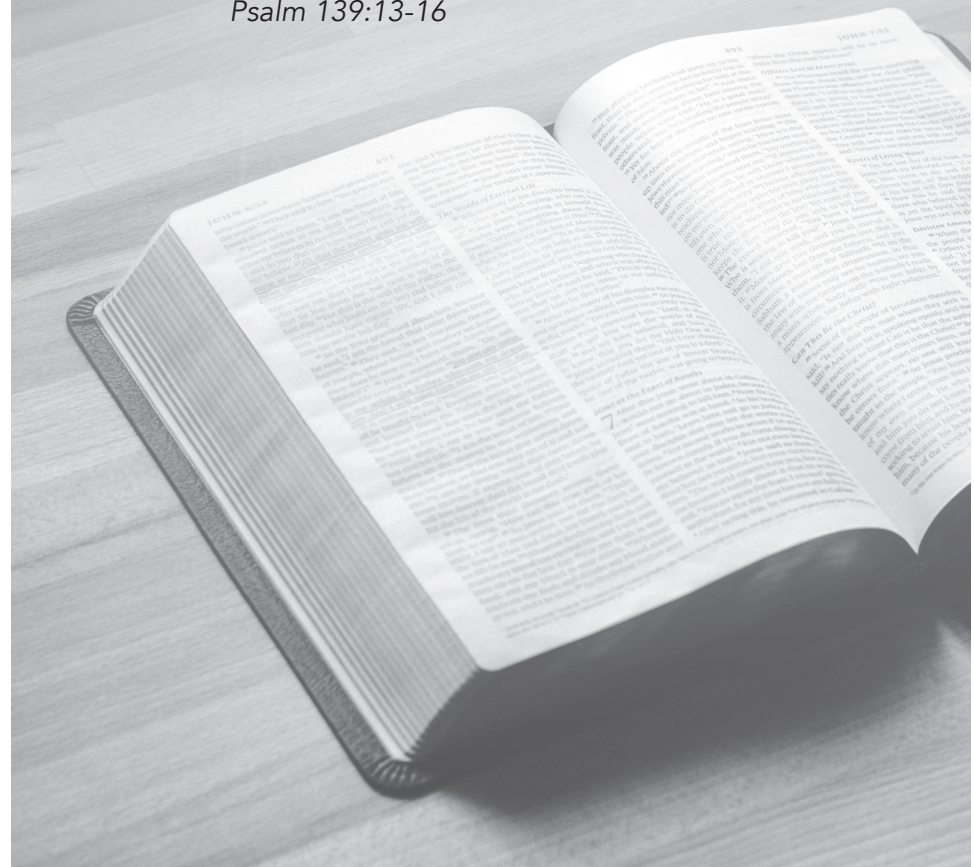
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PREACHING THE Prolife MESSAGE

"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 overstated. 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 places the souls of hurting women and men at risk, not to mention the lives of innocents.

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. A stand must be taken by church leaders—with each congregation standing, too.

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

The truth must be preached

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 politically conservative?

The truth 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 pastors to speak out on abortion and life issues.

Nearly a 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 the solution for an unplanned pregnancy.

Silence on abortion and life issues sends the wrong message to the congregation. Clearly speaking out against abortion with love will highlight the sanctity of human life. Let no one be confused.

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 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 is within the Church's realm of influence and responsibility.

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

Post-abortive women and men would probably be hurt if a church leader just 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 loving way, many post-abortive women and men could be positively influenced. The post-abortive members of each congregation may realize others empathize with their pain and guilt and are open to helping them with a redemptive healing process.

In her book *Changed*, Michaelene Fredenburg writes, "Although abortion has touched many of us, we rarely share our personal experiences. Shame or guilt may play a role in hiding our abortions. And the rancorous public debate certainly doesn't encourage dialogue about this personal and extremely sensitive topic. We sometimes lack the language to discuss conflicted emotions that trouble us. Whatever the reason, silence perpetuates the myth that we stand alone in our abortion experiences—or at least that we're alone amidst the emotional debris."