

Position Statement

The Sanctity of Life

1. Life

a. {CHURCH NAME} believes God is the creator of all life (Gen. 1-2) and has imbued mankind with His image. (Gen 1:27) We believe life starts at conception. God knew us before we were conceived, and He knit us together once we were. (Jer. 1:5, Ps. 139, Is. 44:24 & 49:5, Job 31:15, Luke 1:41)

2. Death

a. {CHURCH NAME} believes that to take an innocent life is murder (Ex 20:13; 21:22-23; 23:7, Revelation 21:8, Romans 12:19, Lev. 24:17, Matt. 5:21, 1 John 3:11-12, Gen 9:5-6, Prov. 6:16-19) and that God views the unborn as a life that should not be taken. (Exodus 21:22-23)

3. The Grace of God

a. {CHURCH NAME} believes God can and will forgive any sin for which there is repentance rooted in the all-sufficient sacrifice of Jesus Christ through his life, death, and resurrection. We believe abortion is a sin that demands repentance, but we also believe in God's immeasurable grace (2 Chron. 7:14, Acts 3:19, 1 John 1:9, Prov. 28:13, 2 Peter 3:9). "Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 5:20-21)

4. Abortion

a. Based on these beliefs, {CHURCH NAME} believes it is good Christian practice to abstain from participating in, encouraging, or supporting abortion. We believe it is a sin of great severity to intentionally end the innocent life of another human being whom God has begun forming within the womb. This would include any act done to end a child's life from conception until their natural death.

5. Exceptions

a. {CHURCH NAME} believes there is no justification or permissible reason to have, encourage, or support an abortion.

b. Rape/Incest

Today's culture has led many to believe that the value of a human life is less based on the circumstances of their conception (rape, incest, etc.), however, the Bible tells us that we are all made equal under God's image (Genesis 1:26-28, Galatians 3:28).

c. Life of the mother

When extreme medical emergencies that threaten the life of the mother arise (Chorioamnionitis or HELLP syndrome), treatment to save the mother's life, including premature delivery should be considered under the idea that every reasonable attempt to save the baby's life would also be a part of the medical intervention. Abortion, or the purposeful termination of a pregnancy, is never medically necessary.

d. Ectopic pregnancy

By the time an ectopic pregnancy has been discovered, the embryo has died or will die in the near future. In order to protect the life of the mother, and preserve fertility potential, it is necessary to remove the embryo. Treatment of ectopic pregnancy by standard surgical or medical procedures is not a moral equivalent of elective abortion, or the taking of a living human life.

6. Care for Women

a. According to the immeasurable grace of God found in Jesus Christ, we want women who have had an abortion or considered abortion to know we love them, and God does too. Abortion is not an unforgivable sin a person cannot come back from. We fight unashamedly for the life of the preborn, standing firm on our belief that abortion is a sin and detested by the Lord. We also fight unashamedly to care for women who have had abortions, standing firm on the grace of Jesus that has been poured out for each of us. We do not find these two things to be mutually exclusive.

7. Care for Men

a. {CHURCH NAME} believes men are not innocent of the sin of abortion. Men can contribute to abortion by encouraging it, supporting it, and even manipulating and demanding that women have an abortion. We believe these are all sins that require repentance. God offers men the same grace and forgiveness through Jesus He offers to women, and we exhort any men who have contributed to abortion to repent and find the forgiveness only found in Jesus Christ.

8. Fertility Treatments and Contraceptives

a. The elders of {CHURCH NAME} do not have the time or resources to thoroughly investigate every option for fertility treatments and contraceptives. However, we believe it is the responsibility of any Christian to examine for themselves the treatments they seek and whether they align with God's Word and the beliefs outlined above. If those treatments result in the intentional ending of life, it is a sin.