

Randy Alcorn's notes for his 2012 Sanctity of Human Life message

Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him. (Psalm 127:3–4).

See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:10).

But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16).

Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost. (Matthew 18:14)

In the Philippines in 1986, Pam Tebow contracted amoebic dysentery, possibly from contaminated drinking water. She fell into a coma and received strong drugs to fight the infection. It turned out she was pregnant with her fifth child. The drugs caused the placenta to detach from the uterine wall, depriving the "fetus" of oxygen. When it was realized that she was pregnant, doctors stopped the drugs but said that *the high doses of medicine had already damaged the "fetus."* "According to the doctor, the "mass of fetal tissue" or "tumor" — *me* — had to go." — Tim Tebow, *Through My Eyes*.

Timmy was born Aug. 14, 1987. The doctor said to his parents: "Only a small part of the placenta was attached, but it was just enough to keep your baby nourished all these months." Pam Tebow: "We were concerned at first because he was so malnourished." *But suppose the doctors had been right?* The LORD said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" (Exodus 4:11).

Some say: "I oppose abortion except in cases of rape, incest and danger to the life of the mother." But: Should the baby be punished for the father's sin? Don't inflict upon the innocent child rage against the rapist. The violence of abortion parallels the violence of rape. Regardless of the motive, the strong brutalize the weak. A child is a child, regardless of the sins of her father.

Abortion does not bring healing to a rape victim. It does nothing bad to the rapist and nothing good for the woman. Creating a second victim doesn't undo the damage to the first. Feminists for Life: "Some women have reported suffering from the trauma of abortion long after the rape trauma has faded."

Luke 1 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus....He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign... forever; his kingdom will never end "How will this be...since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." "Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was unable to conceive is in her sixth month..." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea [8-10 days], where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. (Luke 1:29-44)

Summary: After the angel left, Mary hurried (v. 39) to get to Elizabeth. Unborn John the Baptist (in his sixth month after conception) responded to the presence of unborn Jesus inside Mary. Allowing for travel, Jesus was no more than eight to ten days beyond conception when this happened. Implantation doesn't begin until 6 days after conception, and remains incomplete till 12. Jesus was not fully implanted in his mother's womb when unborn John responded to his presence. In Luke 1, a fetus named John responded to the presence of a blastocyst (pre-embryo), named Jesus.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:1,14).

When did the Word become flesh? When did He leave heaven and come to earth? At conception. Christ's incarnation came 9 months before Christmas.

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17

Scripture repeatedly shows life begins before birth:

- *The babies [Jacob and Esau] jostled each other within her [Rebekah.] (Genesis 25:22)*
- *In the womb he [Jacob] grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God (Hosea 12:3).*
- *Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Remember that you molded me like clay. Did you not ...clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews? You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit (Job 10:8–12).*
- *Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers? (Job 31:15)*

- *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made... My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place... When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 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).*
- *Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. (Jeremiah 1:5)*
- *Surely I was sinful at birth; sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (Psalm 51:5) Who Wants Us to Believe Lies re: Abortion? [The devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44*

Planned Parenthood says: "Every child a wanted child." Let's complete that sentence in the way that Planned Parenthood functions: "Every child a wanted child, so let's identify every unwanted child before he is born and kill him."

The Jewish holocaust happened to other people in another country at another time. So we can say, "Why didn't they do more?"

The unborn holocaust is happening to us in our country in our time. Future generations will look back at us and say, "Why didn't they do more?" God hates the shedding of innocent blood.

- *And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. ... from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man (Genesis 9:5)*
- *The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10).*
- *Do this so that innocent blood will not be shed in your land, which the LORD your God is giving you as your inheritance, and so that you will not be guilty of bloodshed (Deuteronomy 19:10)*
- *Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. (Psalm 82:3)*
- *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:8-9)*
- *Rescue those being led away to death. (Proverbs 24:11)*

"If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ.... Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved; to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that one point." - Character named Fritz, in a 19th Century novel about Luther and the Reformation, by Elizabeth Rundle Charles

"Why are you talking about abortion? Don't you realize what it's going to do to the many people who have had abortions?" Wherever abortion isn't spoken of, more people get abortions and those who've had them suffer in silence. "Some stay away from that service every year. Abortion is politics, and laying on guilt."

Why talk about abortion?

- *To save the lives of children God loves*
- *To prevent people from a lifetime of regret*
- *To offer healing to those who have experienced it, both men and women*
- *It's not primarily political, it's spiritual*
- *So we won't be like the German church that didn't stand up for the Jews.*
- *Demons don't want us to talk about abortion, because they love killing babies, wish to destroy women and men through child-killing, and reduce the church to people-pleasing. By hiding the truth.*

One out of every 5 American women getting an abortion claims to be born again and/or an evangelical Christian. Most of those are associated with a Bible believing local church, many attend regularly. The problem isn't just our country, it's our churches. How many hundreds at Good Shepherd have gotten abortions? (How many GS men have gotten them pregnant?) How many in our church will get an abortion in 2012? What are we doing to prevent this? Can we do more? We are not here just to help each other feel good but to help each other be good (begins with truth and forgiveness). The greatest kindness we can offer each other is the truth. "The truth will set you free." We do no one a favor by being silent about child-killing. Grace is not being silent about sin. It is not ignoring sin. God didn't ignore sin. He exposed its horrors on the cross. He took those horrors on himself so that people can turn to Him, confess their sins and be completely forgiven and free. For God's glory and for their good.

- *Surely these things [terrible judgments] happened to Judah according to the LORD'S command...because of the sins of*

Manasseh... including the shedding of innocent blood. For he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive. (2 Kings 24:2-4)

- *For God will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight (Psalm 72:12-14)*
- *Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will give you over to bloodshed and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you (Ezekiel 35:6)*

God offers forgiveness to all who repent and turn to Christ in faith:

- *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)*
- *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).*
- *God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him (Psalm 103:10, 12-13).*
- *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).*
- *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).*
- *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)*

How do prolife concerns fit with the great commission?

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. (Matt 28:19-20) Teaching them to obey:

The Good Samaritan.

The sheep and the goats.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Jesus replied: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37-39).*

What Can You Do?

Stop pretending the babies aren't dying

1. Open your home. Adoption, foster care, invite in unmarried mother.
2. Volunteer your time, talents, and services.
3. Get informed. (Resource table)
4. Talk to friends, neighbors, coworkers.
5. Give out books, literature; *Why Pro-Life?*
6. Write letters; if in school write papers.
7. Do sidewalk counseling/praying.
8. Get active in politics.
9. Pray daily for and support pro-life ministries, mothers, and babies.
10. Talk to, pray for your church leaders. Talk to prayer team; join recovery group.

The King will reply, *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”* Matthew 25:40

Five minutes after I die, what will I wish I'd have done for Christ on behalf of the helpless [unborn, disabled, victims of sex traffic] while I still had the chance?

For each of us and our church: Why not spend the rest of our time here closing the gap between what we'll wish we would have done, and what we are doing?