


The Supreme Showdown: Is Life Truly Sacred?

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TALKING WALKING POINTS

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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and walk in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

- 1 Abortion is a very contentious subject in our society today. People have very strong opinions about it, so it's critical for us to think and respond in ways that are biblical, honoring toward God, and loving toward our neighbors. Tell us about an attempt you made to have a civil conversation about abortion.
- 2 *Roe v. Wade* decreed that states cannot ban abortions prior to an unborn child's "viability." Dictionary.com defines viability as "capable of living." Which of the following are "viable"?
 - a healthy fish—tossed up onto dry land
 - a healthy cow—tossed into the middle of the ocean
 - a healthy one year old baby—abandoned in a grocery store
 - a healthy one week old unborn baby—safe in her mother's womb
- 3 What do you learn about "viability"? Under what circumstances are **you** currently **non-viable**?
- 4 The Bible contains stories of unborn babies. In each of the following passages:
 - (1) Who is the baby being spoken of? and,
 - (2) Does God's Word consider them "human life" at that point in their development?Jeremiah 1:5 Psalm 139:13-16 Luke 1:39-45
- 5 Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. **For whom** are we to pray?
- 6 We don't have "kings" (etc.). In a modern democracy, what are the analogous offices? What are the names of those officials in our city, state, and nation?
- 7 This passage instructs us to use four kinds of prayer:
 1. Supplication – "an urgent request for God to meet a need"
 2. Prayer – "a petition to God"
 3. Intercession – "praying to God on behalf of someone else"
 4. Thanksgiving – "an expression of gratitude to God"Make a list of supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings you can bring to God.
- 8 What guidance do the following passages give us about interacting with those who oppose God's view of the sanctity of human life? Proverbs 18:13 1 Peter 3:15 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- 9 Read Ephesians 6:12. Are those who disagree with the biblical view of life our "enemy"? Who is?
- 10 A friend confides to you that she had an abortion (or, a guy-friend admits that he talked his girlfriend into having an abortion). They now feel guilty. How might you help them?

1 You likely will need to “prime the pump”, so be prepared with your own answer to this question. (But wait for others to think and answer. Check your watch—20 seconds feels like an eternity!)

2 ~~✗~~ a healthy fish—tossed up onto dry land
~~✗~~ a healthy cow—tossed into the middle of the ocean
~~✗~~ a healthy one year old baby—abandoned in a grocery store
✓ a healthy one week old unborn baby—safe in her mother’s womb

3 **Any** healthy thing in its **proper environment** is viable—a weed growing in the crack of your sidewalk, a bird which is free to fly, a fish in water, etc. **Every** healthy thing dies (“isn’t viable”) when it is deprived of its proper environment—but the blame lies in depriving something of its proper environment, not in some innate fault with the organism! Allow a healthy thing to continue in its proper environment and it will flourish!

Under what circumstances are **you** currently **non-viable**? Deprive **you** of air, water, nourishment, or eternal life and **you** perish! But if we “live and let live”, we and the unborn all are viable.

4 **Jeremiah 1** (1) = Jeremiah (2) Yes, God already knew Jeremiah before he was formed in the womb.

Psalms 139 (1) = David (and, by extension, every human being)
(2) Yes, the now-adult David refers to his pre-born self as “I”, “me” and “my”.

Luke 1 (1) v. 41 = John the future baptizer; v. 42 = Jesus, the Savior of the world!
(2) Yes, in fact, notice that v. 44 reveals that the pre-born John the future baptizer experienced joy in the womb. Joy is an emotion. Emotions are the result of one’s interpretation of stimuli (eg. Dan sees a snake, and feels fear. Tricia sees a snake and excitedly wants to hold it.). This means that the pre-born John understood that he was in the presence of the pre-born Jesus, and John experienced joy! Think of the implications of this—the pre-born are intelligent interpreters of stimuli!

5 For every person who’s in any level of authority over us.

6 President & VP; Supreme Court justices & lower court judges; NC legislators...
Governor & Lt. Gov; NC judicial and legislative branches...
Mayor; town council; school board...

7 Summarize or print off a prayer guide, such as this:
<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/prayer/pray-for-government-leadership.html>

8 Listen well; choose your words carefully; don’t get drawn into arguments; present the truth winsomely; pray for God to do what only he can do—deliver folks from the domain of darkness, into his kingdom.

9 No; Satan is our enemy.

10 Using the passages from 8, discuss how to help and what to say.

Sermon Summary (Key Text: 1 Timothy 2:1-4)

The Bible addresses the wrongness of **abortion**—but **what are the legal and constitutional perspectives?** We may be on the verge of a sea change in abortion law in the US and, as Christ followers, we need to know how to pray and respond. We want to consider three things today:

[A] How did the Supreme Court grant women a fundamental right to terminate their pregnancies in *Roe v. Wade*? What is the story?

[B] Why might the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade* this year?

[C] What will happen if *Roe* is overturned and how should we as Christians be prepared?

[A] Where Have We Come From? The Supreme Court recognizes unwritten constitutional rights. The Ninth Amendment suggests that other fundamental rights exist that are no less important than those listed in the Bill of Rights. But if unwritten rights exist, how do we know what they are? Through what's called "substantive due process," the Court has used two approaches: **(1)** rights that are "deeply rooted in our nation's history and tradition," i.e. consensus rights, and **(2)** rights the justices think promote personal autonomy and dignity. The latter approach is an invitation to the justices imposing their own values under the guise of constitutional decision-making, and those rights have overridden traditional values in the area of sexuality and family structure (e.g., abortion, homosexual intercourse, same-sex marriage).

The basic rule of *Roe v. Wade* is that states cannot ban abortions prior to the unborn child's "viability." States can ban abortions after viability, unless abortion is necessary to protect woman's life or health—but "health" is interpreted very broadly. The right to abortion has no basis in constitutional text, nor is it a consensus right deeply rooted in our national tradition.

[B] Where Are Now? The Supreme Court now is deciding whether Mississippi's law forbidding abortion after fifteen weeks is constitutional. There are four possible outcomes: **(1)** *Roe* is overruled and the life of the unborn is constitutionally protected nationwide, **(2)** *Roe* is overruled and the issue of abortion is returned to federal and state legislatures, **(3)** *Roe* is overruled as to viability and the line before which states cannot ban abortions is drawn at some other point, OR **(4)** *Roe* is affirmed. Based on their comments during oral arguments, a majority of justices appear to favor (2).

[C] Where Are We Going? If Supreme Court adopts outcome (2), then the abortion battle will shift to state legislatures. Then the question becomes: What laws will be passed allowing or forbidding abortion? Currently, North Carolina abortion laws permit abortions up to birth for almost any reason, except if it is done to select the sex of the child.

Application-Challenge: What should Christians do?

- **Pray** that the justices adopt options (1) or (2). (1 Timothy 2:1-4 and Ephesians 6:12)
- **Prepare** to speak to your family, friends, and coworkers with conviction and compassion about abortion as it likely will become a much more controversial local issue.
- **Plan** to get involved with effecting political change on abortion as it becomes a matter of state law, decided by our elected representatives.



If you're younger than **50**, you've never known a time in America when unborn life was viewed as sacred and given the same protection you enjoy!

Approximately **20%** of America's population has been sacrificed to abortion. Add up all fatalities from all American wars; we've killed 50x more through abortion!

Some day King Jesus will do away with abortion—let's make sure we've assisted him:

- Think through an age-appropriate explanation you can give each of your children.
- Think through an age-appropriate question you can ask each of your children.
- Make plans to join the TCC family in a peaceful prayer rally for life this September.

(Details coming this summer.)

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see next page) is a simple way to study any topic. Let's use it to study the sanctity of unborn human life...

Monday— Read Psalm 139:1-6. What do you learn about your **all-seeing** God?

Tuesday— Read Psalm 139:7-12. What do you learn about your **all-present** God?

Wednesday— Read Psalm 139:13-18. What do you learn about your **all-creative** God?

Thursday— Read Psalm 139:19-24. What do you learn about your **all-holy** God?

Friday— Read Psalm 139. Memorize v. 13-14...and worship your God!

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 1 Corinthians 15:1–11.

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would *this text* answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]