

Exposing the Unfruitful Work of Abortion

Sanctity of Life Sunday, 2008

By Pastor Matt Black

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Lord's Day morning

Ephesians 5:11

Introduction: Open your Bibles to **Ephesians 5:11**. The title of this morning's message is "Exposing the Unfruitful Work of Abortion".

Life is precious. The Bible tells us that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (**Psalm 139:14**). God makes no mistakes. He makes no junk. Human life is precious. Yet this year, 1.3 million children will not make it out of their mother's womb because their life was an inconvenience. We have slid so far in this country that the most dangerous place to live in America is now not within a city, but within a mother's womb. It should be the safest place, the place where the baby is nurtured and protected. Instead, one in four babies in America have their lives ended because their mother deemed them to be an "inconvenient life".

What should we do about this? Paul tells us exactly what we should do in **Ephesians 5:11**. Would you stand with me as we read this brief but powerful Word from the Living God this morning? **Ephesians 5:11**, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [EXPOSE] them."

[Prayer for guidance]

The unfruitful work of darkness that I want to expose this morning is that today, in your United States of America, 3,287 baby boys and girls will die in an abortion clinic.

Illustration (Chicago Tribune): I want to expose the fact that according to Thursday's Chicago Tribune [HOLD IT UP], there are 1.3 million abortions in America every year—46 million since the Supreme Court overturned the laws of 48 states 35 years ago. The caption angered me more than anything I've ever read in a newspaper: "Abortions at a 30 Year Low"! Imagine if you read in a newspaper in 1945: "Hitler Making Progress—Jewish Executions Down to Only 1 Million"! What is wrong with America?

This morning one thing we can do is expose this unfruitful work of moral darkness called 'abortion', or we can do nothing. It is more convenient to do nothing, to be consumed with the American dream while well over 1.3 million babies have their lives ended in an abortion clinic. And that does not count the hundreds of thousands and perhaps more that are aborted through the "morning after" pill.

- I. First, I want you to see the **Crisis** of Abortion. Every third baby conceived now is being murdered. Among teenaged women there are 736 abortions for every one thousand births. Among married women, abortions now exceed births. More babies are killed than are born.

In some metropolitan hospitals in the major cities of our nation abortions far outnumber live births. Planned Parenthood has gone so far as to say this is nothing more than a means of preventing disease, pregnancy being noted as a disease. If you think that sounds far-fetched, I will remind you of a paper by Doctor Willard Cates from the Planned Parenthood Physicians Association, the title of the paper is, "Abortion as treatment for unwanted pregnancy, the second sexually transmitted disease."

Pregnancy then is seen by Planned Parenthood as a sexually transmitted disease that needs to be cured by abortion.

Our nation and other nations in the world are frankly wiping out an entire generation of human beings in **mass infanticide**. It is estimated that perhaps as many as 46 million babies will be murdered this year around the world, 46 million, and that's probably conservative, more than all the deaths in all the wars in all the history of the world.

- II. Now let us ask ourselves, Why is abortion such a **Crime**? Abortion though legal in the United States of America is a Crime in the eyes of God, it is the murder of a human being that He has sovereignly created. I want you to see this from **Psalm 139:13-16**. Turn there if you would.

And the question we are going to ask is: **When Does Life Begin?** According to **Psalm 139:13-16**, life begins the moment DNA is present, that is at the very moment of conception, that baby is not a fetus or a blob of tissue, but a human being fearfully and wonderfully created by God. It's amazing that these verses refer to DNA before DNA was ever discovered.

- A. Listen to the **Testimony** of David. Here it is, **verse 13**, "For thou hast possessed [FORMED] my reins [INTERNAL ORGANS]: thou hast covered [WOVEN] me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance [HARD SUBSTANCE, BONES, OR SKELETAL STRUCTURE] was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought [CAREFULLY EMBROIDERED] in the lowest parts of the earth [AN ANCIENT METAPHOR FOR THE WOMB]." So when does life actually begin? **Verse 16** answers it: "Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect [UNFORMED]; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance [IN A CHAIN] were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." So before I had formed a body, from the moment the first cells met, my life and my personhood began!

David here is speaking of himself as a person "when as yet there was none of them." None of what? Body parts. When do body parts begin to form? After three weeks. Before that when I was "yet being unperfect [UNFORMED]" the blueprint and code of my whole person was "written down". The Bible says these were written down and fashioned "in continuance" or 'IN A CHAIN'. Amazingly, this is referring to the DNA molecules that are in every cell of our body.

- B. Look at this **Trail** of DNA. It gives us the answer to when a person is a person. **DNA** is the building block of life. It defines people, their hair color, eye color, how tall they will be, their basic strengths and weaknesses, etc. A baby at the point of conception has a complete and entirely different set of **DNA** than its mother that defines everything about him.

So Biblically, a baby is a person the moment of conception, when DNA is present, a DNA that is entirely distinct from the mother. That proves that this little baby at the moment of conception is not a blob or an extension of the mother's body, but a unique human being!

- C. The **Test** of Medical Science also proves life begins very early on.
"Medical authorities determine a person to be "alive" if there is either a detectable heartbeat or brain-wave activity. With that in mind, understand

that children in the womb have detectable heartbeats at eighteen days—that's two and a half weeks. They have detectable brain-wave activity just five and a half weeks after conception. What is so shocking is that essentially 100 percent of all abortions occur after the seventh week of pregnancy."¹

- D. The **Tenets** of Illinois Law protect a baby as an actual person. Legally a fetus has been given protection against intentional murder under Illinois Statute 5/9-1.2.² In 2002 Laci Peterson and her unborn son, Connor were murdered by Scott Peterson, her husband. Scott was charged with not one but TWO counts of murder in the first degree under California law. On March 16, 2005, Peterson was sentenced to death and is on death row in San Quentin State Prison.

We have the same laws in our state. According to Illinois law, even if someone kills a baby in the womb regardless of its viability — he can be charged with murder! Scott Peterson was charged with murder under laws like ours. Yet it is amazing that in abortion clinics and hospitals in our country abortion doctors can take the life of 4000 Connors EVERY SINGLE DAY, 183 per hour without fear of prosecution!

Abortion is legal in the United States of America, but it is a crime in the eyes of God!

Again our text in **Ephesians 5:11** says what we are to do with the works of darkness: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [EXPOSE] them."

III. Now I want expose to you the **Convenience** of Abortion.

- A. Scores of abortion clinics are **Nearby** in our very community. are easily **accessible**. They are literally happening in our backyards.

Illustration: In a 10 second search of the Internet, I found that abortion is frighteningly available and accessible. One very prominent ad immediately came up: The banner read "Illinois Abortion Clinics: Serving the Chicago area with Convenient Locations". Listed beneath were numerous locations near Tabernacle Baptist Church. Within a 30 minute drive from this church, there are more than Planned Parenthood abortion clinics. Naperville, Schaumburg, Des Plaines, Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove, Wooddale, Hinsdale, Lincolnwood.

The motto of this company made me realize that we are living in a place that is worse than Sodom and Gomorrah. The motto proudly read: "Providing the most modern, confidential, low cost and supportive abortion...healthcare". Health Care? Where is the "care" in abortion? What insanity?! I say, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness" (**Isaiah 5:20**).

- B. Many believe that abortion should be illegal except in rare circumstances. Some say that abortion should be legal but rare, only in extreme cases. Some say abortion

¹ Sanctity of Life, C. Swindoll, Word, 1990, p. 11-12.

² "The killing of an 'unborn child' at any stage of pre-natal development is intentional homicide, voluntary manslaughter, or involuntary manslaughter or reckless homicide. Ill. Comp. Stat. ch. 720, §§5/9-1.2, 5/9-2.1, 5/9-3.2 (1993). Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 720 § 5/12-3.1. A person commits battery of an unborn child if he intentionally or knowingly without legal justification and by any means causes bodily harm to an unborn child. Read with Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 720 § 5/12-4.4." From the National Right to Life website (http://www.nrlc.org/Unborn_victims/Statehomicidelaws092302.html).

should be allowable if it is known that the child will be mentally handicapped or seriously impaired in some way.

To that I would say that God is perfect and sovereign in the giving of ALL human life. He said to **Jeremiah in chapter 1:5**, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." He has a special purpose for every child conceived. But let me give you an actual situation to illustrate this.

A professor in a world—acclaimed medical school once posed this medical situation—and ethical problem—to his students: "Here's the family history: The father has syphilis. The mother has TB. They already have had four children. The first is blind. The second had died. The third is deaf. The fourth has TB. Now the mother is pregnant again, The parents come to you for advice. They are willing to have an abortion, if you decide they should. What do you say?"

The students gave various individual opinions, and then the professor asked them to break into small groups for "consultation." All of the groups came back to report that they would recommend abortion.

"Congratulations," the professor said, "You just took the life of Beethoven!"³

What about rape and incest? We do not have time today, but a child should not pay for the crime of the rapist. It is the rapist that should be put to death and punished, not the child! We don't have time this morning, but there are many testimonies of children who were conceived in rape who are wonderful productive people in this world. Because God is sovereign, no child is an accident.

C. The truth is that abortion is almost never medically **Necessary**.

Less than one per cent of abortions occur because the mother's life is in danger. In fact, Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General of the United States says that during his more than 35 years of medical practice in obstetrics, "Never once did a case come across my practice where abortion was necessary to save a mother's life."⁴

"Why are children aborted? The Alan Guttmacher Institute (the research arm of Planned Parenthood) states:

- 1% are victims of incest or rape
- 1% had fetal abnormalities
- 4% had a doctor who said their health would worsen if they continued the pregnancy
- 50% said they didn't want to be a single parent or they had problems in current relationships
- 66% stated they could not afford a child
- 75% said the child would interfere with their lives."⁵

³ We believe this was first reported in an Ann Landers column.

⁴ C. Swindoll, Sanctity of Life, Word, 1990, p. 23.

⁵ Statistics cited in Rescue Update, June/July 1989, Southern California Operation Rescue, quoted in Sanctity of Life, C. Swindoll, Word, 1990, p. 12.

Something is wrong when in our country we abort a perfectly normal 22 week fetus while at the same hospital, we perform surgery within the uterus on its cousin!⁶ What decides whether one baby's life is fought for and the other baby's life is disposed of? One word: the convenience of the mother.

Our text in **Ephesians 5:11** says what we are to do with the works of darkness: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [EXPOSE] them."

IV. Thirdly, I want to expose the **Cost** of Abortion.

A. What is the **Price** tag for abortion? According to Thursday's Chicago Tribute, a doctor will make an average of \$900 per abortion destroying unborn human babies. In these United States, you can be fined up to \$5000.00 and/or spend a year in jail for crushing the egg of a bald eagle.⁷ And yet an abortion doctor can make a lucrative living.

Look at your darling child next to you. How much is he or she worth? The abortion clinic down the street is willing to take abort a child for about \$900.

B. Who **Profits** from abortions? Abortion is robbing our country of its children, but it is a very lucrative FOR PROFIT business! From of the 1.31 million children taken by abortion this year, the abortion industry has taken in over 1 BILLION dollars. That is a one with NINE zeros behind it. I tried to put that number in my calculator, but it was too long!

Do you know who's paying for abortion on demand in this country? You are!! In the last two years, Planned Parenthood has received over \$500 MILLION dollars in your money—taxpayer money! This money is allocated from Congress. Now listen to this. Congress last year passed a law banning partial birth abortion, and Planned Parenthood takes the money that Congress has given them, and sues Congress saying the ban is unconstitutional! Planned Parenthood uses our tax dollars to promote, advertise and market the benefits of abortion, including partial-birth abortion. Do a Google search for abortion clinics near you. You will find all kinds of advertising from Planned Parenthood. Do you know who pays for those ads? You do. Last year, Planned Parenthood performed almost 250,000 abortions.⁸

V. Finally I want to give you the only **Consolation** for Abortion.

A. I want to tell you about the **Grace** of God.

You may be here this morning as the mother of a child you have aborted. You may be the father who has agreed to it. I want you to know that no one is cut off from Christ because of past sin—even the sin of abortion. Christ is the answer to abortion! "Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds!" (**Romans 5:20**). There is no sin that Jesus cannot forgive!

⁶ Steve Calvin (with my own modifications) as quoted by John Piper at http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByTopic/47/787_Exposing_the_Dark_Work_of_Abortion

⁷ Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668a-d)

⁸ The suit is being filed by the ACLJ and can be researched at: <http://www.aclj.org/TrialNotebook/Read.aspx?id=420>

B. I want to tell you the **Good News** of the Gospel.

1. **Beverly Smith McMillan** opened the first abortion clinic in Jackson Mississippi. After a life-changing conversion to Christ she resigned. She confessed, "The good news that makes the Gospel so relevant today is that God forgives. I know from personal experience that the blood of Jesus can cover the sin of abortion." (Fowler, Abortion, p. 198).
2. Listen to the Testimony of **Norma McCorvey**. She is the Wade of the case that legalized abortion in America, Roe v. Wade.

Listen to what she says,

I could out-cuss the most crass of men and women; I could out-drink many of the Dallas taverns' regulars; and I was known for my hot temper. When pro-lifers called me a murderer, I called them worse. When people held up signs of aborted fetuses, I spit in their face.

I had a reputation to protect, after all. As the plaintiff in the infamous Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, my life was inextricably tied up with abortion. Though I had never had one, abortion was the sun around which my life orbited. I once told a reporter, "This issue is the only thing I live for. I live, eat, breathe, think everything about abortion."

God began working on my heart through a 7-year-old girl named Emily, the daughter of O.R. [OPERATION RESCUE] volunteer Ronda Mackey.

Quite understandably, I had difficulty relating to children. I had given birth to three, all of whom had been placed for adoption (one of them against my will). And because I worked in an abortion clinic, I was fearful of bonding with anyone so young.

Early on in our relationship, I explained to Emily, "I like kids and wouldn't let anyone hurt little kids," to which Emily responded, "Then why do you let them kill the babies at the clinic?"

Every morning, Emily's mother Rhonda heard her daughter pray, "Dear God, please don't let any babies be killed and make it so that abortion will end. And help Miss Norma to come to Jesus."

Ronda didn't want Emily to be disillusioned about God not answering her prayers, so she explained, "God always answers our prayers, Emily, but Miss Norma has a choice to make here. She probably won't choose to follow Jesus. That's Miss Norma's fault, not God's. I don't want you to think God isn't listening to your prayers simply because Miss Norma doesn't become a Christian." Emily smiled. "She's going come to know Jesus, mama." And with the faith of a child, Emily kept asking if t would come with her to church. Finally, [NORMA MCCORVEY SAYS] I said yes.

Whatever my reasons for going, one sermon was all I needed. Pastor Morris Sheats of Hillcrest Church ended his sermon with a compelling evangelistic call from **John 3:16** asking, "Is anyone here tired of living a sinner's life?" Immediately I felt overwhelmed with my need to respond.

How could I say no? I had been tired of it for years, but it was the only life I knew! I cautiously raised my hand, then opened my eyes and looked up to see if that really was my hand raised up high. It was. I couldn't believe it. I walked forward, leaning heavily on Ronda for support.

When I reached Pastor Sheats, I saw Jesus in his eyes. It made me feel so incredibly sorry for all my sins, especially for my role in legalizing abortion. I just kept repeating over and over, "I just want to undo all the evil I've done in this world. I'm so sorry, God. I'm so, so sorry. As far as abortion is concerned, I just want to undo it. I want it all to just go away." Finally, I stopped crying and broke into the biggest smile of my life. I no longer felt the pressure of my sin pushing down on my shoulders. The release was so quick that I felt like I could almost float outside.⁹

3. Today, Norma McCorvey is our sister in Christ, and she says, 'I'm one hundred percent sold out to Jesus and one hundred percent pro-life,' I like to say. "No exceptions. No compromise."¹⁰

VI. I want to finally expose the lack of **Concern** for Abortion. I wonder if you truly are concerned about abortion in our country. You have a choice. You can either expose "the unfruitful works of darkness" or you can do NOTHING.

There is a story that brings this truth home about an elderly German man who lived through the Holocaust that answers that question. He says:

I always considered myself a Christian. I attended a church since I was a small boy. We had heard the stories of what was happening to the Jews; but like most people in America today, we tried to distance ourselves from the reality of what was really taking place. What could anyone do to stop it?

A railroad track ran behind our small church, and each Sunday morning we would hear the whistle from a distance and then the clacking of the wheels moving over the track. We became disturbed when one Sunday we heard cries coming from the train as it passed by. We grimly realized that the train was carrying Jews.

Week after week that train whistle would blow. We would dread to hear the sound of those old wheels because we knew that the Jews would begin to cry out to us as they passed our church. It was so terribly disturbing! We could do nothing to help these poor people, yet their screams tormented us. We knew exactly at what time that whistle would blow, and we decided the only way to keep from being so disturbed by the cries was to start singing our hymns. If some of the screams reached our ears, we'd sing a little louder until we could hear them no more.

Years have passed, and no one talks about it much any more; but I still hear that train whistle in my sleep. I can still hear them crying out for help. God forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians, yet did nothing to intervene.¹¹

⁹ From web site: <http://www.leaderu.com/common/roev.html>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ As recounted in Erwin W. Lutzer's book "Hitler's Cross".

Does this sound like the United States in 2008 — are we tempted to just "sing a little louder"?

Conclusion: What can you do this morning about the abortion issue? What can you do as a Christian? We need to educate people and expose this unfruitful work of darkness as our text says: **Ephesians 5:11**, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [EXPOSE] them."

By the end of this day, as you live your life and make your choices, 4000 children will have their right to live taken away through abortion. Close to 3000 people died on 911. We have a 911 every day in this country.

Do you hear a call to action in this verse? Do you hear a call to do something in 2008 to expose the darkness and the fruitlessness of abortion? God is calling us in this verse—he is calling all Christians—to expose the dark and fruitless work of abortion. We must reprove the dark and fruitless work of abortion.

God is calling passive, inactive Christians today to engage our minds and hearts and hands in exposing the barren works of darkness.

What you do, may rescue another human being from being murdered.

While many women are miscarrying babies and begging God to give them a child, hundreds of thousands of other women are throwing their babies away.

We've come to the close of our service. And as we close I would like all the children and young people of our church to come to the front of the church, and I read a portion of a diary.

This selection is called, "**Diary of an Unborn Child**"

October 5

Today my life began. My parents do not know it yet, I am as small as a seed of an apple, but it is I already. And I am to be a girl. I shall have brown hair and hazel eyes. Just about everything is settled though, even the fact that I shall love puppies.

October 19

Some say that I am not a real person yet, that only my mother exists. But I am a real person, just as a small crumb of bread is yet truly bread. My mother is. And I am. I have developed my own blood cells and am growing fast. I can't wait for Mommy and Daddy to see how cute I am.

October 23

My mouth is just beginning to open now. Just think, in a year or so I shall be laughing and later talking. My mouth is beginning to open. I know what my first words will be: MAMA and Dada.

October 25

My heart began to beat today all by itself. From now on it shall gently beat for the rest of my life without ever stopping to rest!

November 2

I am growing every day. My arms and legs are beginning to take shape. But it will be a while before those little legs will raise me to my mother's arms, before these little arms will be able to gather flowers and hug my Daddy.

November 12

Tiny fingers are beginning to form on my hands. Funny how small they are! I'll be able to stroke my mother's hair with them. God has also given me the ability to play the piano.

November 20

It wasn't until today that the doctor told mom that I am living here under her heart. Oh, how happy she must be!

November 25

My mom and dad are probably thinking about a name for me. But they don't even know that I am a little girl. I want to be called Kathy. I am getting so big already.

December 10

My hair is growing. It is smooth and bright and shiny. I wonder what kind of hair mom has.

December 13

I am just about able to see. It is dark around me. When mom brings me into the world it will be full of sunshine and flowers. But what I want more than anything is to see my mom. How do you look, mom?

December 24

I wonder if mom hears the whispering of my heart? Some children come into the world a little sick. But my heart is strong and healthy. It beats so regularly. You'll have a healthy little daughter, mom!

December 28

Today my mother killed me.

The Bible commands us to speak up. When will you speak up? It is inconvenient to speak up against the new holocaust. If we do not speak up against abortion, it will be because we loved our convenience. The choice to remain silent against evil is a choice to be complicit in the evil. My brother and sister in Christ, silence is NOT golden!

The Nazis ended up with a death toll of 6 million killed before we put a stop to it. And Christians did little to nothing to put a stop to it. One pastor in Germany, Martin Niemöller (1892–1984), refused to speak against the Nazis. It was too inconvenient. No one thinks you're strange if you keep quiet. But if you speak up you'll be called on the fringe.

Martin Niemöller ILLUSTRATION

Martin Niemöller, this Christian pastor, writing many years after his time in Nazi Germany, gave this testimony:

- In Germany, [the Nazis] first came [to exterminate] the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
- Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak up because I wasn't a Communist.
- Then they came for the trade unionists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.
- Then they came to exterminate the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
- Then they came for me and by that time, there was no one left to speak up.

Martin Niemöller barely escaped execution and survived seven long months of imprisonment.¹²

The Bible commands us to speak up. Who will speak for those who have no voice? You can either expose "the unfruitful works of darkness" or you can do NOTHING.

¹² Spartacus Educational website (<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERniemoller.htm>) by John Simkin.