

TABOO



Part 6: Abortion

July 23 & 24, 2016

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Looking at the taboo topic of abortion through the lens of...

Grace (*Luke 7:36-50*)

Culture

Culture says life is negotiable based on your rights.

God says life is a gift to be stewarded responsibly.

Theology

God is pre-life

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "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 1:4-5

God creates life

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; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 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

God gifts life

Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him.
– Psalm 127:3

You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit. – Job 10:12

God holds the boundaries of life—

**both the prohibition of ending it (*Exodus 20:13*)
and the commandment to choose it.**

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. – Deuteronomy 30:19-20

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Science

At the moment of conception, all the DNA that determines “you” is sequenced and imprinted.

At 8 weeks of in utero development, a baby has all of its vital organs working and can feel pain, suck its thumb, register brain waves and dream.

Statistics

- By age 45, 1 in 4 women will have abortion as part of their story
- 2 out of 3 of those women identify as women of faith
- In 100% of abortions, a man is involved

Grace and Forgiveness

Next Steps

Healing and restoration for you or someone you care about:

If you or someone close to you has experienced the hurt of a past abortion, *Arms of Love* After-Abortion Support Group offers understanding, help and healing. This small group is facilitated by women who have experienced abortion themselves, but now walk renewed, restored and refreshed with full assurance of God’s forgiveness. Resources for men and a men’s support group are also available. For information about upcoming sessions email Susan or Stephanie at armsoflove@whatcomclinic.com or call Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic at **671-9057**.

If you’d like to learn more about the resources and care available through Whatcom County Pregnancy Clinic, please stop by their table today in the Commons. Their caring, knowledgeable staff is on hand to help.

Small Group Questions

- 1) Summer’s long days make for lots of outdoor time. Where have you found God this summer?
- 2) According to Psalm 139 God made you, and you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Is there anything about you that you wish God would have done differently?
- 3) Read Deuteronomy 30 again. Why did God give us a choice?
- 4) Do you believe the stewardship of life is a right or a responsibility? Would God agree with you?
- 5) In Luke 7 Jesus gives grace to someone with a past. Acknowledging that we all have a past, how does this story shape the way we should approach people who need as much grace as we do?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?