



Abortion

Elder Position Paper

The triune God is the God of life. From Genesis 1 to the end of Revelation, God gives and is glorified in life! Paul told the philosophers of Athens, "He is actually not far from each one of us, for 'In Him we live and move and have our being...'" (Acts 17:28).¹ He made humanity in His image, male and female (Gen 1:26-27), appointing the moment of each person's conception as well as the hour of each person's death:

"Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in Your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them." (Psalm 139:16)

When the Son of God came into the world, He spoke about the true life He came to bring through His saving work to redeem His people, body and soul: "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). In today's world of passionate arguing between those who are "pro-choice" and those who are "pro-life," we can confidently agree with those who have observed that God is *pro-abundant life!*

Considering the goodness of God in giving and sustaining life, we grieve to recognize that over 60 million unborn children—all of whom are made in the image of God—have been murdered in our country in the last 50 years. This holocaust illustrates the radical depravity of man:

"None is righteous, no, not one;
no one understands;
no one seeks for God...'
'Their feet are swift to shed blood;
in their paths are ruin and misery,
and the way of peace they have not known'" (Rom 3:10b-11, 15-17).

"The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor 4:4), and this blindness has manifested itself in the prolific and legal murder of little ones who bear the image of God as His creatures. Because Satan is "the god of this world," this

¹ All biblical quotations are from the Holy Bible: English Standard Version (ESV) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001).

murderous impulse is in keeping with the nature of the devil's kingdom, because "he was a murderer from the beginning..." (John 8:44).

Thanks be to God, His sinless Son was murdered for our salvation, that we might have redemption and forgiveness of all our sins, whether lust, greed, slander, adultery, lying, or murder! Speaking of these and other sins, the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian believers: "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor 6:11). We gladly proclaim that to all who have aborted their children and turn to Christ in repentant faith, there is full and free forgiveness! The greatest hope and need for an abortive generation is the same hope that Jesus preached as He came to save sinners: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

Abortion is a moral and spiritual crisis facing our nation, and we call upon our governing leaders to recognize the God-given ministry to protect life with which they have been entrusted: "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.... [He] is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom 13:1, 4). The power to take life is given explicitly as a function to protect innocent life by taking the life of a murderer, not to sanction the death of the innocent unborn. God's call to our government is the same as the call He gave to governments thousands of years ago when He spoke to world leaders through the psalmist: "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:3-4). Nothing short of national repentance and the legal protection of life from conception-to-natural death will suffice. To this end the Church may pray as Jesus taught us: "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:10).

Abortion is not something new to Church History. The early Church in the Roman Empire lived amid a culture filled with abortion and infanticide. Unwanted infants were left outside on the streets to die commonly. Because of the Gospel and their love for God and neighbor, believers rescued these little ones and gave them homes. Today, we have the opportunity to champion Gospel-centered crisis pregnancy ministries, show the love of God through foster care and adoption, call abortion center doctors and workers to repentant faith in Christ, and minister to abortion-vulnerable parents with the love of Christ. We believe that with the Gospel in our mouths and in prayerful dependence on the Spirit, believers may labor as we have opportunity to rescue the weak and needy.

"Rescue those who are being taken away to death;

hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

If you say, 'Behold, we did not know this,'

does not He who weighs the heart perceive it?" (Proverbs 24:11-12a)