

Title – Choose Life

Prayer

Purpose/Review

NOTE-

One of the hardest tasks a minister is given
Is to speak the truth when the truth is hard to hear

Today's message is one of those times...

NOTE-

This past Friday early voting began in Virginia
Virginia will have a choice to change the states Constitution
Voters will decide if we add a total of 3 amendments

One of those amendments will make abortion a right

A Right... just like freedom of speech and freedom of religions

One news source stated...

The amendments would enshrine in the constitution the right to reproductive healthcare, including abortion... **Cardinal News**

Enshrine – to preserve or cherish as sacred

The one major theme that runs through the bible is... choosing life

It begins in the Garden of Eden and finds it's pinnacle in the Gospels
And continues to the last chapter of the bible

Our reading this morning is about choosing life...

Background-

It is towards the end of the 40 years
That the Hebrew people wandered in the wilderness

They are about to try and enter the Promised Land for the second time
Moses reminds them of their choices in the past

Did they follow God or did they follow their own desires...

What will they choose to do...?

Reading

Deuteronomy 30

19b So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him

Doctrinal

Before we continue...I want to make something very clear...

There is no sin that we've committed that cannot be forgiven...

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 12:31

Matthew 12

31 Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

NOTE-

ANY (literally the Greek word is all) sin we have committed

No matter how heinous, how depraved, how wicked, how long in duration

Is forgivable by God

Some of you may be thinking that I shouldn't be talking about this political subject...

The bible is filled with comments about political situations...

The idea behind... politics don't belong in church

Is designed to halt conversation... And to deny the revealing of truth

There is another theme that I would like to visit...

Choosing darkness or light... evil or good

Ephesians 5

11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.

Yes... taking the life of an innocent unborn child IS a deed of evil and darkness

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Why do I consider it evil and darkness...?

If I were to describe to you what takes place during a 2nd and 3rd trimester abortion
You'd run out of the door and get sick to your stomach

CHURCH HISTORY-

The early church consistently and unequivocally taught
That abortion was a grave sin equivalent to murder

NOTE-

There is an early writing from the 1st or 2nd century called... the Didache or the Teachings
It is considered the first teaching manual for Christian living

Didache

2:2...you shall not murder a child, whether it be born or unborn.

Overall, the early Christian position was characterized by a broad continuity of pro-life teaching, treating abortion and infanticide as serious moral evils that required repentance and were strictly forbidden for all believers...

What does the bible teach about abortion...?

The bible does not specifically say... do not perform an abortion

But it does have much to say about life and the unborn child

Where does the bible begin to develop these topics...?

Genesis 2

7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Formed – to be created

NOTE-

Unlike animals, which God spoke into existence

The Lord personally formed Adam from the dust of the ground

And fashioned Adam's physical body

In other words... God was intimately involved in creating Adam

NOTE-

God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life

And Adam became a living being

The breath of life was more than just air for breathing

It was a gift from the life-giving Spirit of God

NOTE-

The important implication is that life is sacred
Life comes directly from God

Clearly the bible teaches that... God Himself is the author of life

What else does the bible teach us about the unborn...?

Application

Our first bullet point...

God Himself is the author of life

1) God's Intimate Knowledge of the Unborn

Ponder this truth...

God's intimate knowledge of each of us before we were born...

Jeremiah begins his writings with this truth...

God told Jeremiah that He knew him before he was born...

Jeremiah 1 NIV

5 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.

And Isaiah had this same understanding...

Isaiah 49 NIV

1b... Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb He has spoken my name.

NOTE-

These verses show us that God knows the preborn

NOTE-

It is God Who create the tiny life and plans the days of their life
And it is God Who cares for life while in the womb.

Our second bullet point...

God Himself is the author of life

1) God's Intimate Knowledge of the Unborn

2) The Unborn Are Treated as Persons

NOTE-

The bible considers the unborn baby a person
Not a neutral term like a fetus
But a person with all of the attributes of life

Luke 1

15 For He will be great in the sight of the Lord; and He will drink no wine or liquor, and He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in His mother's womb.

Later Luke tells us the he... who would come to be known as John the Baptist

Was fully aware of his senses and recognized Mary's voice

Luke 1

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb

Not just a stirring like babies do...

But he leaped in Elizabeth's womb so much

That this moment would be told to Luke later when he wrote is letter

STORY-

When my wife was about 7 months pregnant... I would do something every night
The last thing that I would do... Was to bend over my wife's tummy and say

Hi baby... it's daddy

On the day of my daughters birth I was in the delivery room
And after the birth... the nurse took my daughter to weigh her and clean her up
And I was led into what they call the birthing room

The nurse eventually came in and handed me my daughter
And as she did I remained silent

Once the nurse left I was looking at the face of my daughter
Her eyes were closed... and she was resting peacefully

The first words I said to her were... Hi baby it's daddy
She burst into a huge smile with her eyes wide open

Our third bullet point...

God Himself is the author of life

- 1) God's Intimate Knowledge of the Unborn
- 2) The Unborn Are Treated as Persons
- 3) Legal Protection Under the Law of Moses**

This is a very important truth to ponder...

Exodus 21 NIV

22 If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. 23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life

The unborn is a person with full legal rights...

STORY-

I asked AI who benefits from not granting personhood to an unborn child

Question - Denying personhood to the unborn is a windfall for planned parenthood. It increases the amount of money that they make

Answer-

So yes — abortion is one of Planned Parenthood's largest single revenue streams, and it's grown over time. If fetal personhood laws made abortion illegal, that revenue would vanish. In that narrow sense, the legal status quo is financially advantageous to them.

Total revenue for 2023-2024 = \$2.03 billion

Our fourth bullet point...

God Himself is the author of life

- 1) God's Intimate Knowledge of the Unborn
- 2) The Unborn Are Treated as Persons
- 3) Legal Protection Under the Law of Moses
- 4) The Moral Duty to Defend the Vulnerable**

The bible is clear...

We do have a moral duty to fight for the least among us...

Proverbs 24

11 Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.

And again...

Proverbs 31

8 Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...

The innocent... who cannot speak for themselves...

In a rare move, Catholic Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Diocese of Arlington issued a Sept. 12 letter urging Virginians to join the “Catholics Vote NO” campaign, which opposes Ballot Questions 1 and 2.

Some of the text of this letter is on the back of your bulletin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All of us in the Commonwealth of Virginia will soon face very serious legal threats to the sacredness of human life and the sanctity of marriage. During the upcoming election season, from September the 18th to November the 3rd, two dangerous ballot initiatives will be brought before all voters.

One amendment, which will appear as Ballot Question 1, proposes an extreme and vague change to the Virginia Constitution that would create a legal right to unregulated abortions, performed by unlicensed abortion practitioners at any time during pregnancy. This threatens the health and safety of mothers and would allow for abortions targeting healthy babies all the way up to birth. The amendment extends this so-called right even to minors. It would remove the role of parents concerning life-altering and irreversible decisions for their minor daughters. Unfortunately, abortion is already legal in Virginia. But what is on the ballot this fall would expand abortion beyond what most citizens recognize as reasonable limits. The proposed amendment is extreme. It is unnecessary. And it is wrong.

The Church is not partisan. The Church never advocates for or against specific candidates or parties. At the same time, the Church, in fidelity to the Gospel and her mission, always speaks clearly, faithfully, and truthfully concerning matters of faith and morals in public life. An issue of fundamental moral justice confronts each one of us. The Church boldly proclaims its "Yes!" to the protection of the unborn and the sanctity of all human life. For us to speak this Yes, we must together proclaim "no! " to these radically unjust ballot initiatives, in fidelity to God and for the good of all in our society.

Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Conclusion-

This election is very unique.

One could make an argument to vote for a candidate who supports abortion
But supports many other things one believes are important

This is different... this is our choice

Will I choose to have my vote... my signature...

Be a part of history... That condemns who knows how many babies to death

Or will I choose Life... life for the most innocent among us...

Joshua 24

15 If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

CLOSE