



Christian Voices for Life

935 Eldridge Rd # 1007, Sugar Land, TX 77478

www.ChristianVoicesForLife.org

Dear Pastor,

As pastor of a pro-life church, you are already aware that abortion is wrong and hurtful. But perhaps you are uncertain how to address the issue in a sensitive way considering the number of post-abortive women who are undoubtedly among your congregation. **The problem is that silence on the topic of abortion can contribute to more abortions.**

About 70% of American women having abortions identify themselves as Christian, 43% reported attending church at least once a month, and 20% attended at least once a week. (1)

Christian women are well aware that pregnancy outside of marriage constitutes public evidence of sexual sin. According to a survey of post-abortive women, the most typical reactions they were expecting or had experienced from the local church at the time of their decision were “judgmental” or “condemning.” (1)

How can a local church speak out in a way that will prevent women in their own congregation from turning to abortion?

Three clear messages, given regularly, can together greatly reduce the likelihood of a member of the congregation choosing abortion.

1. **We will not judge or condemn an unmarried pregnant woman.** We are all sinners. Only God knows the complete circumstances of how she got pregnant. If there was sinful behavior, we have no right to assume that her sin is continuing or that she has not repented. Individual counseling is done privately. We do not condone sexual sin, but we will accept her and help her to resist whatever temptation she may have or pressure she may be experiencing to abort her child. We will celebrate the life God has created within her. We will do what we can to make her path easier and to help her to provide her child with a good home, whether through parenting or adoption. We want everyone to know about OptionLine.org (available 24/7 in English and Spanish) and the local pregnancy help center* which are equipped to help each woman with her decision and with alternatives to abortion.
2. **Abortion is wrong.** The world is proclaiming in a loud voice that abortion is a woman’s right. The church must teach that it is wrong. It is also harmful to women – physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is a woman’s right to give birth to her child; to follow her God-given maternal instinct to nurture her child. Others are often pressuring her to abort; she needs encouragement to find an alternative solution.

"I can't help but think that if I heard in church that abortion was wrong...I might have chosen to keep my baby instead of killing my baby." From a letter to Priests for Life. (2)

3. **We will also not judge or condemn women suffering from past abortions.** We acknowledge that temptation and pressure to abort can be very strong. None of us can say what we would do in her shoes if we have not been there. In fact, **the majority of abortions are unwanted or coerced.** (See [“Forced Abortion in America.”](#)(3) When the adulterous woman was being stoned, Jesus did not condemn her but simply said “Go, and from now on do not sin any more.” (John 8:11) The bible also says “Judge not, that you be not judged.” (Matt 7: 1) “...while it takes the blood of Jesus to deliver us from guilt, it takes the acceptance of others to deliver us from shame.” - Kathy, a post-abortive woman.

“Twenty years ago I had my abortion. The week before I had my abortion, I was sitting in my seat in my pew at my church. The week after my abortion I was sitting in my pew at my church. For the last twenty years, I’ve sat in that same seat, in the same pew. Never once has there been a message in our church offering hope and healing, and as a result, I assumed [abortion] must not only be the unspeakable sin, but therefore it must be the unforgivable sin.” (4)

Jesus not only forgives but offers healing. Confidential healing programs can be of great help. (See www.rachelsvineyard.org, ramahinternational.org and saveone.org). Healing can prevent women from falling into a pattern of repeat abortions, and hearing about post-abortion pain may prevent other abortion decisions.

Pastor, please prayerfully consider what God wants you to tell your congregation regarding abortion.

Please also consider **making sure your intentions are always known by posting a pledge** similar to the two samples enclosed (“We are Pro-Life” or “Our Church Pledges to Support Life”). [11 X17 posters can be printed by Vistaprint.com or Office Depot; and frames are also easily available.]

Please respond with the enclosed post card or by email to
<mailto:marie@ChristianVoicesforLife.org>.

These additional resources are also available:

1. <http://www.priestsforlife.org/preaching/index.aspx> includes “Preaching on Abortion: A New Overview” and “Addressing Abortion with Confidence” in Catholic, Ecumenical and Spanish versions.
2. <https://savethestorks.com/2017/08/5-fears-keep-pastors-preaching-abortion/> Includes responses to those fears and a link to CareNet resources to educate yourself about abortion.
3. <https://saveone.org/store> *Is There Not a Cause?* By Sheila Harper. “The pastor's answer to a tangible course of action with the abortion issue. ... with love, not politics; acceptance, not rejection.”
4. <http://afterabortion.org/jericho/index.htm> This page includes access to 5 chapters of the book *Jericho Plan*. One chapter includes sample sermons.

An electronic copy of this letter, with live links, can be downloaded from
<https://christianvoicesforlife.org/to-do>

Your sister in Christ,



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* Local pregnancy centers include Pregnancy Resource Medical Center in Rosenberg (www.prmcfortbend.org) and Women’s Pregnancy Center in southwest Houston (www.wpchouston.com)
www.pregnanttoday.com has a map of all the centers in the Houston area.

1. <https://www.christianpost.com/news/70-of-women-who-get-abortions-identify-as-christians-survey-finds-150937/>
2. <http://www.priestsforlife.org/brochures/facefearsecumenical.html>
3. <http://theunchoice.com/pdf/FactSheets/ForcedAbortionFactSheet.pdf>
4. A “Silent No More” testimony given at a pastor’s summit in North Dakota; story told by David Bereit at Anglicans for Life Summit 2018.