

# ABORTION



---

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

---

... for intentional conversations with students

### **CULTURE GUIDE:**

On June 24th 2022, the Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade. For many people across the United States, this ruling was met with an array of different emotions. For some, this was a time of celebration and others felt only anger. We are aware that there may be different feelings concerning this topic in your own family. Our primary goal for this guide is to equip parents with a biblical understanding of the value of human life and the ability to disciple teens to navigate the difficult waters of our culture. We believe that the conversation around your kitchen table is far more valuable than the conversation on social media. We pray that your family will be a home of believers who care for all people with the wisdom and grace that is found only in Jesus Christ. To try and accomplish this we have provided a couple of possible conversations below. We encourage you to use these to guide any discussions you believe are needed in your home. You may use one conversation or spread them out over time with your family for multiple discussions. You will also find some recommended reading if you would like to become even more knowledgeable in this area.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

We believe that the conversation around your kitchen table is far more valuable than the conversation on social media. We pray that your family will be a home of believers who care for all people with the wisdom and grace that is found only in Jesus Christ. To try and accomplish this we have provided a couple of possible conversations below. We encourage you to use these to guide any discussions you believe are needed in your home. You may use one conversation or spread them out over time with your family for multiple discussions. You will also find some recommended reading if you would like to become even more knowledgeable in this area.

### **BOOKS/STUDIES:**

- What the Bible Says about Abortion, Euthanasia, and End-Of-Life Medical Decisions by Wayne Grudem
- The Gospel and Abortion by Russel Moore and Andrew Walker
- Forgiven and Set Free by Linda Cochran
- Think Biblically Teen Bible Study by Sean McDowell

### **BLOGS:**

- One Reason Why We Adopt by Tony Merida
- Healing the Guild and pain of Abortion by Pat Layton

---

## **ABORTION AND THE IMAGE OF GOD:**

Parent Pre-reading: Anytime we talk with teenagers about a subject like abortion, it is imperative that we ask what they know and what they have learned. This can give us insight into who has already influenced them on this topic. This also helps us not make assumptions on their understanding of the subject.

For this conversation, we want to start with a biblical understanding that all people are made in the image of God. Because they are made in God's image, they have value and worth. The subject of abortion is an ethical and moral conversation questioning when a human is given this value and whether another person has the right to abort this life for any reason. Is this life inside the womb its own individual or simply a part of the woman's body until birth?

Here is Matt Chandler's answer to these questions as seen in Gospel and Abortion:

Humans are not equal with the rest of the creative order. God has given us a moral, intellectual, spiritual compass that the rest of creation does not possess. This does not give us the right to be brutal or cruel, but God gave man alone dominion over creation.

In Genesis 1:26-27, the Bible says: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female." This is called the imago Dei— humans are unique because we have been made in the image of God.

Humans wrestle with some things that no other created thing does. For example: If you're watching the National Geographic Channel and they show a little baby antelope, you think, Oh my gosh! That's so cute. Then three minutes later, there's a female lion ripping it to pieces. You're kind of like, Oh, I can't . . . ! I just can't . . . ! Oh my gosh! Right?

Do you know who is not thinking that? The lion.

The lion is not thinking, I shouldn't be doing this! There's no moral quandary in the lion. Later that evening, as she's licking the blood off her paws, she's not filled with regret and shame. She isn't thinking, I did it again! I need some help! She is driven by instinct alone. She is not wondering about her future. She is not sitting and contemplating what will happen when she is too old to hunt. She is a lion. She is magnificent, but she has no moral or spiritual compass.

But people do. We lie in bed at night with regrets. We wrestle with what is right and what is wrong, or whether we should or shouldn't do something. The animal kingdom doesn't wrestle with those things. Mankind alone has dominion because mankind alone has been made in the image of God.

---

When it comes to the topic of abortion, then, the first question we have to answer is this: “When does this imago Dei—the soul, this moral, spiritual compass—enter into the man or the woman?” That’s a huge question. The Bible tells us in Genesis 5:3 that the image is passed from a father to his sons and daughters. So when men have children, they are giving birth to little image bearers—men and women, little boys and little girls. What we see in the Bible is that this moral/ spiritual compass—this soul—has a presence in the womb. In Psalm 58:3 (ESV), the Bible says, “The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.”

That’s a strange text, isn’t it? Why bring up wickedness right now? Because the Bible says wickedness, which is a moral state of being, is in place in the womb. Wickedness isn’t something that occurs in our hearts after we’re born. The soul—that moral, spiritual thing that exists in mankind that sets us beyond the rest of creation—is present in utero.

Job 14:4 says, “Who can produce something pure from what is impure? No one!” This isn’t math where a negative multiplied by a negative equals a positive. If dad is a sinner and mom is a sinner, then guess what they have? Sinners.

Job’s point is that two unclean things can’t possibly produce something that’s clean. The argument in Job is the same one we see in Psalms, that the soul is present in the womb. From there Job 15:14 says, “What is man, that he should be pure? Or one born of woman, that he should be righteous?” This is the same argument. The soul is intact in utero.

So now the question is, When, in the womb, does the soul become present? When does life begin? This has implications for a hundred different things in our lives.

Psalm 51:5 says, “Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.” According to the Word of God, the soul comes into human cellular matter at conception— not after the first trimester or the second trimester. A human being is born, soul intact. When sperm and egg meet and unite, there is a living human being.

This has all sorts of implications. First of all, we should marvel at God’s detailed work in creating life. Psalm 139 says He knits us together in our mothers’ wombs. It says we are fearfully and wonderfully made. It says God knew all the days we would have before we lived even one of them. In fact, the weight of this text actually points toward God preparing us, while we are in our mothers’ wombs, for the things He has planned for us. It’s a beautiful text.

Second, as believers in Christ, we should put a high value on all human life. And third, this has massive implications for how we view social issues, none so paramount as the social issue of abortion.

[Matt Chandler, “What Does the Gospel Say?” in *The Gospel and Abortion*, ed. Russell D. Moore and Andrew Walker, (Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2016), 28-31.]

---

## **KEY SCRIPTURE:**

Genesis 1:26-27 – Man is made in God’s image.

Genesis 5:3 – Man passes this image down to his offspring.

Psalms 58:3 – A person has moral standing in the womb.

Jeremiah 1:5 – God knew us before we were ever born.

## **CONVERSATION #1:**

With the overturn of Roe vs. Wade, there has been a lot of talk about abortion. Tell me what you know about the court case and what you believe this means for people?

Where do you personally stand on this issue? What has led you to this belief?

Has the Bible influenced your conviction on this subject? Why or why not? (Parent Note: This is an important question for this conversation—possibly the most important. Helping our teens understand that a Christian worldview comes from Scripture will help them determine their ethical standards in this conversation and many others.)

What do you think it means that a person is made in the image of God? (Parent Note: See above article by Matt Chandler for greater knowledge on this question.)

## **READ TOGETHER:**

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female” (Gen. 1:26-27).

Do you think all beings made in the image of God have a unique value and worth? Why would this be? (Parent Note: Yes, all men and woman are made in the image of God and have value and worth. It does not matter age, development, race, or gender. Worth and value are found in God and God alone. Because He is worthy, the way we treat other humans is a form of worship to God Himself.)

Read together:

“I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations” (Jer. 1:5).

“Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began” (Ps. 139:16).

“And now, says the Lord, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him so that Israel might be gathered to him; for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God is my strength” (Isa. 49:5).

What do you believe these passages tell us about when a person is given a soul or made in the image of God? Does it seem to be before or after birth?

---

---

Based on what we have read and your own understanding of Scripture, what do you believe God's view of abortion is? Why do you come to that conclusion?

### **COMPASSION FOR OTHERS:**

Parent Pre-Reading: It is always important that we remember when talking about issues like these that we are talking about real people. Even when it is people we disagree with, we are called to show love that points them to the saving grace of Jesus Christ. It should never be our goal to be right in a debate, but callous and unloving toward others. We should always stand on truth (Eph. 4:15) while being the hands and feet of Jesus.

In this conversation, our goal is not the hypothetical conversation on social media, but the real-life application of helping your teen navigate both conversations with their friends on the topic of abortion, as well as teen pregnancy.

### **CONVERSATION #2:**

When you see or hear people talking about issues like abortion on social media, how would you describe the tone and the way people talk to one other? Why do you think people can sometimes be hateful to others online?

### **READ TOGETHER:**

"Therefore, since we know the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade people. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to be proud of us, so that you may have a reply for those who take pride in outward appearance rather than in the heart. For if we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God.' He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:11-21).

When it comes to conversations about abortion, how might we as Christians be peacemakers and ambassadors of Christ? (Parent Note: Students today are about action. They don't want to be people who just talk about issues. Helping them see how they can be pro-life with their actions, as well as their words, will help them see an opportunity they value.)

---

If a friend became pregnant and was considering an abortion, what might you say to her? How could you love her like you believe Christ has called us to love?

Please take some time here to express your love for your child and their ability to come talk to you without shame if they ever become pregnant or get someone pregnant.

Do you believe it is possible to love someone and show them compassion without accepting their sin? How so? (Read John 8:2-11 to see how Jesus shows compassion and forgiveness to a woman caught in adultery while still calling her to sin no more.)

What do you think we could do as a family to support people who might be pregnant and unsure of their next steps?