

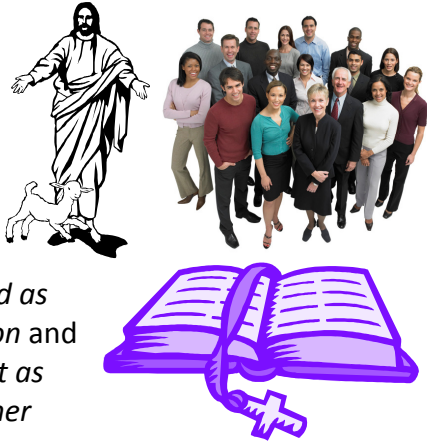
The Role of the Church *In the world*

The Church is *not* a building or a service; instead, it includes all people who have been saved from their sins **by grace through faith in Jesus**

for eternal life!

The Church has

◆ *God's Word as its foundation* and
◆ *Jesus Christ as its chief corner stone!*



The Church exists ◆to be the light in the darkness and ◆to proclaim God's truth about sin and salvation *without compromise*, so that all people might receive Jesus as Savior!

These words of Paul express the *right attitude of pastors*: "...we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. **We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.** (1 Thess. 2:4 NIV)

These words of the Lord describe the *best attitude for all Christians, even all people*: "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is **humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.**" (Isaiah 66:2 NAU)

Should ALL Christians Be Pro-Life?

Think about who we are in Christ: ◆saved, ◆righteous in God's sight, ◆members of God's holy family, and ◆heaven-bound! Then, *for all who know Christ as Savior* (John 17:3), it's time to grow to maturity, to learn what pleases the Lord; then to put such things into practice – *never to be saved, but because we are saved!*

These are good words of instruction:

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (Ephesians 5:8-11 NIV)

Some *well-intentioned, immature* Christians may be pro-choice *for a while*; however, as they grow in understanding God's Word of Truth, *they will also become pro-life!* Then they will say "no" to abortion and "yes" to God's precious gift of human life!

Now, *knowing we are forgiven through Jesus* – even for supporting or participating in the horrors of abortion, let us go forth to: "**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves...**" (Proverbs 31:8 NIV)

www.lutheransforlifeofohio.org

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Should ALL Christians Be Pro-Life?



Introduction

Abortion – it has been a hot topic for decades! Some are strongly in favor – *believing that every woman has the personal right to choose what happens within her body*; however, others are strongly opposed – *wanting to protect every human life!*

This brochure will touch on:

- Abortion's toll in the USA since 1973.
- Knowing the truth.
- Life's beginning – *God's perspective.*
- The role of the Church in the world.
- Should ALL Christians be Pro-Life?

Abortion's Toll in the USA Since 1973

The numbers are absolutely staggering!

Let's compare → *Americans who died in war* with → *Americans who died in abortion*:

- Americans fought in these wars during a total of 63 years:
 - ♦ Revolutionary War, ♦ War of 1812, ♦ Mexican-American War, ♦ Civil War, ♦ Philippine-American War, ♦ WWI, ♦ WWII, ♦ Korean War, ♦ Vietnam War, and ♦ Iraq War. **In all ten of those wars combined, approximately 1.3 million Americans died**; thus **21,000 per year, 57 per day!**¹
- Americans have been legally aborted over a total of 37 years (1973-2010): In all 37 of those years combined, approximately 50 million have been aborted; thus **1.3 million PER YEAR, 3,700 PER DAY!**

Summary: War is sometimes necessary, but it is also expensive – *both in dollars and in lives!* But the cost of American lives in war is *extremely low* in comparison to the cost of American lives in *abortion*. Compare these figures; then cry out to the Almighty God for His forgiveness!

War: 21,000/year, 57/day

Abortion: 1.3 million/year, 3,700/day

Knowing the Truth

It is so important, *yet many are so confused!* Some confusion springs from this reality: We have all sinned, so our thoughts, words, and deeds can easily be tainted by sin.

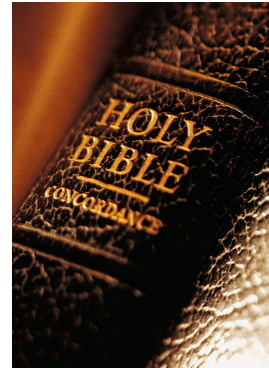
Therefore, *to know the truth*, we must go beyond ourselves to something *free from sin and fully reliable*. That something is *the Holy Bible*:

- The Psalmist prayed: “All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.” (Psalm 119:160 NIV)
- Jesus prayed: “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17 NIV)

Therefore, by the Bible ♦ we know we are sinners (Rom. 3:10), ♦ we know we cannot make ourselves righteous (Rom. 3:20), and ♦ we know we have earned death (Rom. 6:23);

nevertheless, “God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions...” (Eph. 2:4-5 NIV)

We know we are saved – *not because of what we think or feel or say but* – because of *God's Spirit working through His Word of Truth* to assure us of *His forgiveness in Jesus!* In a similar way, we must look to *God's Word* to know the truth about abortion!



Life's Beginning God's Perspective

There are a wide variety of opinions about the beginning point of life; however, the right answer must come from God's Word of Truth: “The God who made the world and everything in it... ²⁵ ...he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.” (Acts 17:24 NIV) Here are some key Bible passages:

- God knew us before conception: “For **God** chose us in **Christ**, before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.” (Eph. 1:4 NIV)
- The LORD was intimately involved in making us: “For you [LORD] created my inmost being; **you knit me together in my mother's womb.**” (Psalm 139:13 NIV)
- Pre-natal life is valuable: “If men who are fighting 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...**” (Exodus 21:22-23 NIV)
- David was a sinful human life from conception: “Surely I [King David] was sinful at birth, **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**” (Psalm 51:5 NIV)

Comment: It is not what WE think or WE feel or WE say that determines the beginning of life; instead, we humbly look to **God's Word of Truth** for all that is good and right!

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_casualties_of_war