

Statement to Congregation about Roe v Wade reversal

July 3, 2022

Imago Dei (ee MAH go Day) is a Latin phrase articulating the truth of Genesis 1:27, “So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.” This passage gives all people inherent dignity and value, not based on their capacities to do anything, but on the value that God assigns. This dignity and value encompass the differences of male or female, age, physical ability, race, ethnicity, and is true regardless of economic status, or any other way we tend to categorize ourselves.

Because of the truth that we find in God’s Word, Grace Covenant Church has always held a position that the dignity and value God ascribes to humanity extends to the unborn and that abortion denies a person from living out their potential to bear God’s image.

In 2020 one in every five pregnancies in the US ended in abortion - over 930,000 children. Those are staggering numbers, and they represent individual lives of children and women. The numbers are not all explained by rape, incest, or the risks to a mother’s life.

The striking down of Roe v. Wade is a good thing, but it just puts us back to where we were 50 years ago as each state will decide what is “right in their own eyes.” The courts have not addressed the issue of the humanity of a human embryo. As leadership of Grace, the Elders thank the Lord for the change but are reminded we are to walk humbly with God. These are divisive times in our country, and we need to remember our hope is not in political systems or legal strategies. It is not in politicians or judges, but it is in The Lord, our God.

This ruling also doesn’t begin to address our social issues that leave women in difficult situations, alone, hurting, and scared while they face a major decision about their life and that of their baby. Women that have experienced an abortion don’t need shame or judgement

projected from the church of Jesus. They need to see us express love, grace, kindness, and compassion as Jesus demonstrated to those who encountered him. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Resource Information

We know some of you are confused about how you feel or what you think about the issue of abortion. The volume and intensity of emotions and platitudes coming from the media and on social media doesn't help. Ultimately, the Bible is our authority. We want our thinking on this issue to be shaped by what the Bible says, what it means and how we should apply it.

We created a webpage at grace360.org/every-human-life. We have posted Matt's sermon from last July about the sanctity of human life. There also are a few articles that may be helpful to inform and clarify your thinking. We didn't write these articles. You may or may not agree with everything they say or recommend doing - neither does the leadership but they are helpful, and we appreciate the tone in their expression. We decided it was better to resource you than to leave you searching on your own or be uninformed. We also urge you to be prayerful about engaging in this debate through social media. It is not a medium for serious debate.

What you can do now

Grace Covenant Church has long supported and encouraged generosity toward life care centers like The Source and Lifeline Pregnancy Center at Mission Possible. The staff and volunteers of these organizations are on the frontlines of walking with women who are in very challenging circumstances, facing a major decision about their pregnancy. They also graciously minister to women through post-abortion support groups. We've hosted those groups here at Grace. We encourage you to both seek to serve there and give generously.

The Source has set up an Amazon wish list of specific items you can purchase for them. It is on our website, and you can use this code to access it.

Finally

We live in a very divided nation. It is an election year, and the atmosphere is emotionally charged. We remind you of Jesus' words when asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" in Matthew 22:37-40, "Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'

As image bearers of God, we want to become like Christ in all of life. So, let our lives reflect the grace and love of our Savior Jesus and obedience to these two commands.

Let's pray.