

I. Introduction.

A. The events of the last few months regarding pro-life legislation in various states here in America is truly astounding. It feels like a watershed moment in our nation. Due to this, there's an increased level of discussion and news about abortion (both good and bad). I feel it's important, therefore, to look at what the Bible says and what scientific facts say so that we can have biblical (true) and fact-based (verifiable) pro-life convictions. (In local news, a prominent abortion clinic has just announced they are closing due to lack of business.) My heart tonight is to faithfully inform. I'm using Randy Alcorn's 'Why Pro-Life?' as a guide—I highly recommend buying it.

Proverbs 31:8-9 | ⁸Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. ⁹Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.

II. What does the Bible say about the pre-born and abortion?

- The Bible affirms: 1) human life begins in the womb, 2) God is the creator of everyone, 3) God has exclusive prerogatives over life/death, 4) God hates the shedding of innocent blood and 5) God has a special love for children.
- The Bible clearly condemns the murder of innocent persons (Exodus 20:13).
- The words the Bible uses (in Old Testament Hebrew and New Testament Greek) for the unborn (yeled [Hebrew] and brephos [Greek]) are also used for young children and even teens/young adults. This is because throughout Scripture (which spans thousands of years) the unborn were understood to be fully human.
- The Bible offers many instances of God's explicit working in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5). The Bible is clear that every baby is made by God and has a purpose for living.
- God in Christ was a Baby just like all other babies. Even Jesus' disciples struggled to understand the worth of children (Luke 18:15-17).
- The biblical worldview of children is that they are a precious gift from God and a blessing (Psalm 127:3-5).

III. Abortion and church history.

- Christians throughout the 2,000 years of church history have affirmed the humanity of the pre-born child.
- 2nd century *Epistle of Barnabas*: "killers of the child, who abort the mold of God."
- *Didache* (2nd century catechism for young converts): "Do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant."
- Clement of Alexandria: "those who use abortifacient medicines to hide their fornication cause not only the outright murder of the fetus, but of the whole human race as well."
- Athenagorus: "What reason would we have to commit murder when we say that women who induce abortions are murderers, and will have to give account of it to God?...The fetus in the womb is a living being and therefore the object of God's care."
- Tertullian: "It does not matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to birth. In both instances, destruction is murder."
- Basil the Great, Augustine, Origen, Cyprian and Chrysostom all condemned abortion.
- John Calvin: "The fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being..."
- Karl Barth: "The unborn child is from the very first a child..."
- "It is really remarkable how uniform and how pronounced was the early Christian opposition to abortion." – Bruce Metzker

IV. Statistics.

- Abortion is America's most frequently performed surgery on women. According to the Guttmacher Institute, 2 of every 5 pregnancies end by abortion.
- There are about 1.21 million abortions (reported) each year in the United States. Conservative estimates are in the 50-60 million since 1973 when Roe v. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court.
- 3,315 surgical abortions per day (not counting chemical abortions or those caused by contraceptives). This is more loss of life than what happened in the World Trade Center terrorist attack in 2001—every single day.
- 43 percent of women obtaining abortions identify as Protestant and 27 percent as Catholic. (In other words, 2/3 of abortions are by women who identify as Christian.)
- 1 out of every 5 abortions are obtained by those who identify as "born again" or "evangelical"—that's one of every five abortions in the U.S. (250,00 per year).
- Nearly every family in the United States has or will be impacted by abortion (in some way) in their lifetime. Unless...

V. Stages of development and a unique perspective (listen to audio for this).

Help me improve my notes! The first person to point out a legitimate mistake/typo on this document (during service) gets \$1.

Greater Peoria House of Prayer Announcements for May 31, 2019.

1. **Welcome** to the Greater Peoria House of Prayer... we're glad you're here and blessed to be worshipping God with you! Be sure to pick up the **free** materials at the back table in the prayer room or the desk near the front of the downstairs fellowship area, which includes teaching notes, stickers, pens, prayer cards and more. **Daily schedule:** We have morning prayer right here in this room seven days a week from 7-8 a.m. Monday - Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. We have afternoon prayer four days a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. - noon. We have evening prayer with live worship from 6-8 p.m. Monday - Saturday. On Friday's, we have an extra prayer gathering from 10-11:30 a.m. Our **Friday Encounter Night** is from 6-9 p.m. and is our main corporate gathering each Friday evening featuring live worship and a teaching to inspire love for Jesus and prayer.
2. **UPCOMING EVENT:** Kids Camp is being replaced this year by a Kids & Family Fun Day Potluck on Saturday, June 22, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. There is going to be lots of fun things happening so plan to have the whole family there!
3. **Prayer room ministry opportunities:** If you are interested in leading or ministering during a live worship set by singing, playing an instrument, prayer leading or behind the sound board, please contact us at info@gphop.org. We'd love to have you serve on one of our teams! **Team ministry opportunities:** If you feel the Lord has gifted you in the prophetic (or would like to grow in this gifting) and would consider helping on a prophetic team, send an email to info@gphop.org. Contact Mandy Kistner at mandy@gphop.org if you would like to schedule a future healing ministry appointment or help out on the healing team.
4. **Missions:** Please keep the following missionaries we support in prayer as well as be sensitive to their financial needs: **Ashley Bucknam** and **Alicia Wright** (ACTS School, Colorado Springs, CO); **Tim and Blair Fraim** (Florianopolis House of Prayer; Florianopolis, Brazil); **Eric and Erin Simmons** (Minnesota House of Prayer Network; Twin Cities, MN); **Amy Dirks** and **Phil Kellenberger** (International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO); **Babett Mueller** (111 Global, Kansas City, MO). Also keep friends **Tyler and Sarah Cook** and family in prayer who lead a HOP in Ottawa, IL.
5. **Social media:** Follow us on Facebook (Greater Peoria House of Prayer - GPHOP), Twitter (@GPHOPrayer), Instagram (@GPHOPrayer), Vimeo and YouTube for regular updates and inspiration. Use these social media sites to get the word out, share pictures, quotes you heard, etc. Contact Derek at derek@gphop.org if you're interested in helping with GPHOP's social media.
6. **Refuge ministry:** There are several groups who use our facility for their ministry purposes. Please keep the following in prayer: Christian Business Men's Connection Bible studies (Thursday mornings), Kinisi 424 senior worship leader meetings (monthly/as needed), kingdom business prayer groups (as needed), prophetic dance classes (as needed) and Sunday church gatherings (as needed).
7. We provide **free wifi** to everyone here! The password for the **GPHOP** router is on the chalkboard in the downstairs fellowship area. You can also connect to either the CableWiFi or xfinitywifi routers if you have a personal Comcast account.
8. **Prayer requests:** If you would like our community to pray for something specific, please submit it to info@gphop.org.
9. **Giving:** If you have been blessed by the GPHOP and would like sow financially into the ministry, we would be more than blessed. You can give in cash, but if you would like to give to GPHOP with a check, please make it out to "Greater Peoria House of Prayer" or "GPHOP"—your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity! It's helping make day and night prayer with worship possible in central Illinois. You can place your gift in the Saturday night offering during the 7 p.m. teaching or drop it in either of the two black donation boxes. Donations can also be mailed to our physical address at 117 East Washington Street, East Peoria, IL 61611. Donors can also use PayPal or our website (gphop.org/donate) to give electronically.

*Thank you for helping to **keep this prayer room sacred** by ensuring conversations with others are brief and kindly reminding others to do the same. There is a large fellowship area downstairs if you would like to talk at length.*