



What the Bible Says About Living Right In a World Gone Wrong

"What the Bible Says about
Today's Controversial Issues" - Week One

Introduction: In an increasingly divided society, we regularly encounter moral dilemmas and disagreements, from the voices of pop culture to extremists who seek to redefine gender pronouns as male, female, or other. These controversial social issues are not a fad that will be fading away. They will continue to show up in conversations with family, friends, workplaces, and on social media, such as Facebook comments. Do Christians "speak up" and share God's truth, even if it offends someone? Or do Christians stay silent out of kindness, yet wonder if we're not being true to what God says? Christians may sometimes feel stuck between a rock and a hard place when navigating tough conversations with either truth or love. The Bible says in Ephesians 4:15 that we are to do both - speak the truth and do so in a spirit of love. In this four-week Bible study, our goal will be to examine current cultural challenges, look at what the Book says (the Bible), and see how we can respond like Jesus.

Four things to consider before we begin ...

First, although some topics in this series may be challenging, Christians need to know what the Bible says about today's controversial moral issues.

Second, although there might be different views regarding some issues, we should remember that God's Word is the Christian's ultimate source of authority.

Third, in the past few years, those with non-biblical values have doubled down on what they believe and have been pushing their values agenda from Hollywood to the public schools.

Fourth, when talking to others about moral issues, we want to always respond in a Christlike way.

Romans 12:2 - How to live right in a world gone wrong

- * "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..." (New International Version)
- * "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Do not be conformed to this world ..." (Amplified Bible).
- * "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold..." (Phillips Translation)

Note this: This verse is NOT saying that Christians should withdraw from the world and have nothing to do with it. It is not a call to isolated living from the people God loves and wants to save. The phrase "Christians are in the world, but not of the world" emphasizes that while Christians live in the world, they should not be absorbed by the anti-God world values. Romans 12:2 encourages Christians to be separated from worldly ways while still fulfilling their purpose and witness for God.

Living life right: To live the right kind of life, we must renew our minds by thinking on the things of God and being in the Word of God. When it comes to God's Word, we are to learn it, love it, and live it! That will enable us to live right in a world gone wrong and be a light, pointing others to God.



What the Bible Says About The Life of The Unborn Child

"What the Bible Says about Today's Controversial Issues" - Week Two

Introduction: Some would suggest that the topic of abortion is a political issue and doesn't belong in the arena of the church or Christian conversations. But as we will see today, abortion isn't primarily a political issue; it is primarily a moral issue. Does the Bible say the ending of the life of an unborn child is permissible, or does the Bible say the ending of an unborn child's life is not permissible, and it is therefore a sin to end the life of an unborn child made in the image of God?

A Definition of Abortion: An abortion is the deliberate, premature ending of a pregnancy by medical means, with the intended result being the death of the unborn baby.

The Big Question: Is there life before birth? Is the unborn baby really a human being? Consider this: From the moment of conception, the baby has an individual identity. The baby has its own set of genes and chromosomes. By 30 days, the heart is beating, and the baby has a brain, eyes, ears, mouth, kidneys, and liver. At 35 days, his fingers have formed. At 40 days, brain waves can be detected and recorded. In the 10th week, the baby has their own unique fingerprints. By the 4th month, their ears are functioning. He or she can hear their mother's voice for the first time. By the 9th month, he or she is fully life inside the womb and capable of life outside the womb ... if they get the chance.

The Biggest Question: What does God say about abortion in the Bible? The biblical writers nor Jesus directly mention the act of abortion. The Bible does not directly discuss abortion by name because it was not practiced among God's people, Israel.

Abortion was always a pagan practice, something that happened in the pagan nations surrounding Israel. The Jews did not kill their unborn babies; they valued them. But this does not mean the Bible is silent on this issue. To the contrary, it has a great deal to say about the value of the unborn life (see Psalm 139:13,15-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 1:41,44).

Is God the giver of life, pro-life? There is only one conclusion one can reach regarding what God thinks about the life of the unborn child. Life is right. Abortion is wrong. And it is wrong because God, the giver of life, says it is wrong to kill life (Exodus 20:13).

The kind of church I do and don't want to be

1. I don't want to be the kind of church that has caved on speaking biblical truth regarding the abortion of unborn children.
2. I don't want to be the kind of church that clobbers people who are pro-choice or those who have made the life-haunting decision to abort their child.
3. I do want to be the kind of church that speaks truth, shows compassion, and responds like Jesus (John 1:14).

Reasons why we must speak on moral matters.

Reason #1 - Because the Bible speaks of the value of all life, so must we. Abortion is a biblical issue first, not a political one.

Reason #2 - One of the purposes of the church is to help people think biblically about society's issues.

Reason #3 - The church is called to help the little, the least, and the lost.

Reason #4 - Abortion and any confusion on what God says about it is not only in our communities, but it is also in our churches.

Reason #5 - Our ultimate goal is not changing minds but changing hearts.

Remember this: Every baby's heartbeat tells a story, whether it starts or is stopped. Let's do our best to help mothers and their babies have a good story as we point them to God and His plans for their lives.

Conclusion: Speaking up in a respectful and gentle way (1 Peter 3:15) for the lives of unborn children may cost us friends or cause people to put us in a "holier than thou" category. However, the Bible never says that Christians are in a popularity contest. The only person we have to please is God. And God is pleased when He sees us speaking up for unborn children whom He loves and who were made in His image, which makes every unborn child sacred.



What the Bible Says About Politics

"What the Bible Says about
Today's Controversial Issues" - Week Three

Introduction: If any topic can spark debate and lead to high blood pressure arguments among people, it is a discussion about politics! As followers of Jesus, what should our attitude and involvement be toward politics? It has been said that "religion and politics don't mix." Does that mean Christians and churches should stay silent regarding the moral issues of our day? Or do Christians have a responsibility to positively influence our world by pointing others to what God says about controversial moral issues? In referring to the role of His followers in the world, Jesus said in Matthew chapter 5 (vv. 13-16) that Christians have a moral mandate to be salt and light to the world. Just as salt was used to preserve food so it wouldn't spoil, Christians are to preserve God's laws to be followed, so a nation does not ruin itself. Likewise, light in darkness shows the right way to go, which Christians should help others to follow.

A definition of politics. The activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, and people who try to influence how a country is led. The word "politics" comes from an Ancient Greek word (*politiká*)

meaning "the affairs of the city." Does God want His people to speak out regarding any moral or spiritual issues that affect our city, state, and nation?

Thinking biblically about politics

1. Christians are called to be spiritual influencers in our community, nation, and world, but not political activists (Matthew 5:13-16).
2. With a Christian's involvement in politics, we must remember it's not about who - it's about what. It's not about parties - it's about policies. It's not about elections - it's about directions (Proverbs 14:34).
3. Christians are to always speak to others graciously and Christ-like. We must never allow our political viewpoints to hinder our witness or ministry to those who disagree (Colossians 4:6).
4. Jesus changed the world by changing hearts. The first responsibility for Christians is not to reform the government but to share the gospel (Romans 1:16).

Three Things to Remember About Faith and Politics

1. The gospel is bigger than politics.
2. The church is bigger than political parties.
3. God is bigger than whoever is in the White House.

Remember this: No matter who sits in the White House, God will still be sitting on the throne in Heaven!