

# Courageous Christianity: Challenging Conversations on Abortion

## Book recommendations and acknowledgement:

Jimenez, Jason. "Challenging Conversations: A Practical Guide to Discuss Controversial Topics in the Church." Baker Books, 2020.

Lutzer, Erwin W. "We Will Not Be Silenced: Responding Courageously to Our Culture's Assault on Christianity." Harvest House Publishers, 2020.

Trueman, Carl R. "The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution." Crossway, 2020.

**Proverbs 31:8** - Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

**Proverbs 31:9** - Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Since *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, there have been over 62 million abortions in America. (nearly 20% of our pop.)

Many liberals call for tax-payer funded abortions for all women.

- The organization NARAL Pro-choice America recently tweeted, "Legal abortion isn't enough. It's never been enough. What we need is abortion justice."
- A statement from President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris said, "We are deeply committed to making sure everyone has access to care – including reproductive health care – regardless of income, race, zip code, health insurance status, or immigration status."

I have chosen to discuss this topic first for several reasons.

- I am hoping it is not too controversial within our church (yet, I don't want to make any assumptions)
- It is such an important topic and hotly debated in our culture
- To **begin** conversations about this critical issue - I do not intend this lesson to be the final word

In his book Jason Jimenez entitles his chapter on abortion with the question, "Does a woman have a right to an abortion?" This question demonstrates the problem and the bias on this issue within our culture.

- Our society makes it a matter of privacy
- Our society makes it a matter of reproductive health care
- Our society makes it a matter of women's rights
- A biblical view makes it a matter of morality

An aggressor, an avoider, or advocator...

**Prov. 16:21** (ESV) The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

**Prov. 16:23** (ESV) The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.

We need to speak up and speak out for the unborn children and for the millions of women who are affected by this terrible wickedness!

**Jimenez:** "Abortion is not only a woman's issue but also a man's issue from beginning to end. You don't have to have a uterus to speak up about abortion. Facts are not made up of genders. If that were true, then *Roe v. Wade* should be dismissed because seven male Supreme Court judges ruled to legalize abortion."

**How we got here: A history of *Roe v. Wade* and legalized abortion**

**What we believe: A case for life**

**How to respond: A dilemma for every argument**

# I. How we got here: A history of *Roe v. Wade* and legalized abortion

## 1916

William Robinson promoted abortion as a form of birth control through his medical practice.

“The evil of abortion is one of the most terrible evils in our society. It kills thousands of unmarried and tens of thousands of married women....I blame not the woman - on the contrary, my heart goes out in pity with indignation at society or the State, which mercilessly and pitilessly sacrifices every year so many of its mothers.”

His concern was not the abortion of babies, but the women who died as a result of unsafe practices from illegal abortions. The real evil to him was the anti-abortion laws which caused this crisis.

## 1936

Frederick Taussig wrote the book *Abortion: Spontaneous and Induced Medical and Social Aspects* which became a highly influential book for legalizing abortion in the 1940's.

## 1962

Alan Guttmacher, who was intricately involved in the Planned Parenthood Federation, became its president. He advocated heavily for abortion as a necessary “rights” for women.

## 1960's

Bernard Nathanson and Lawrence Lader established the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws (NARAL). They were inspired by Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood and proponent of eugenics and sterilization.

Sanger in *The Pivot of Civilization*: “We prefer the policy of immediate sterilization, of making sure that parenthood is absolutely prohibited to the feeble-minded.”

As legalized abortion became more promising in America, Nathanson and Lader developed a strategy of gaining support for abortion from woman.

- Lader stated, “If we're going to move abortion out of the hooks and into the streets, we're going to have to recruit the feminists.”
- Their plan was that men running the abortion organizations would remain behind the scenes while promoting woman as the face of the movement.
- They recruited Betty Friedan, cofounder of National Organization for Women (NOW), and together shifted the debate to a civil rights issue.
- In 1966, Lader published his book, *Abortion*, which was the most cited source by Justice Harry Blackmun in his ruling on *Roe v. Wade* in support of abortion.
- **Note:** the legalization of abortion was primarily pushed by men

## 1965 - *Griswold v. Connecticut*

8 years before *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court case *Griswold v. Connecticut* became critical.

- A couple was fighting for the right to purchase contraceptives
- In their decision, the Court ruled for “the right to privacy” (a term nowhere in the Constitution)

## 1969

- 22 year old Norma McCorvey was pregnant with her 3rd child (previous 2 had been given up for adoption)

- With this child, she wanted an abortion which was not legal in her state of TX except to save the mother's life.
- She first told her doctor she had been raped but the doctor didn't believe her story
- Being denied an abortion, she went to her attorney, Henry McCluskey, to begin adoption
- McCluskey referred her to 2 attorneys, Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee, who were looking for a case to overturn the TX law prohibiting abortions
- They argued the case using "the right to privacy" as a constitutional right for a mother to decide
- In the suit, Norma claimed she was gang raped and that TX infringed on her right to privacy by refusing her an abortion
- To protect her privacy, the attorneys named her Jane Roe and the executive assistant district attorney was Henry Wade, hence, *Roe v. Wade*.

### **1973**

- After losing the case, TX appealed to the Supreme Court
- On Jan. 22, 1973, the court ruled 7-2 to legalize abortion in all 50 states
- The ruling established "the right of privacy" as a constitutional right applied to abortion and no one (including the father, or even a minor's parents) can interfere based on the 14th Amendment

### **And now the rest of the story:**

- Norma McCorvey (Roe) never had an abortion
- Following the trial, she admitted to lying about being raped
- A few years later, she made a profession of faith and was baptized

## **II. What we believe: A case for life**

## **III. How to respond: A dilemma for every argument**