

Valuing what God Values

Part 7: Abortion from an Apostolic Perspective (part 2)

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JULY 2ND, 2017

Full Text (for reading on your own)

Declarations

Declarations are a pro-active version of faith. Mature believers operate in declarations. All the promises of God are voice-activated. *“If you have **faith** as a mustard seed, you can **say** to this mulberry tree ...”* (Lk. 17:6) Faith speaks.

When we speak God’s will over a situation, the Holy Spirit gets behind our words! Remember the Holy Spirit was hovering over the earth waiting for the voice of God to induce His action! God said “let there be light” and there was light! Now the Holy Spirit lives in born-again believers and is waiting for us to voice-activate the promises of God so that they come to pass in our lives!

Too often we wait until we need a miracle and in reaction then speak the word of God over situations. That’s a little like a football player waiting until they get hit to start running towards the other guy. We all will need miracles in our lives and God consistently works miraculously! But, as Andrew Wommack says, operating in blessing is a much higher way than operating in miracles. Blessing is basically sustained miracles. Again, we are all going to need miracles at some point, but we can walk in blessing.

One of the primary ways you can step into blessing in your life is by getting the Word of God in you and you make declarations on a consistent basis according to the Word of God. Those declarations will then shape the track-record of your life before it happens.

It is important to stick with a declaration. Don’t just say it 2, 3, or 4 times. Stick with it for months. Do not *“grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* (Gal 6:9) Stick with a declaration. And don’t be deceived, God is not mocked. If you sow to the flesh you’ll get the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you’ll get the Spirit. How do you “sow to the Spirit?” John 6:63 says the flesh profits nothing. Instead it is the Spirit that gives life. Jesus then clarifies *“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”*

So how do you sow to the Spirit? You sow the words of Christ into your life! You mean only the New Testament? No! The Old Testament too! Jesus is the Word! But listen! Jesus said *“the words that I*

“speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” The words **He speaks** to you! Do not open up your Bible ever again not expecting Jesus Christ Himself to speak to you!

Jesus will speak to us and quicken the Word. Remember that the Pharisees studied the scriptures thinking that in them they would have eternal life? And then Eternal Life showed up in front of the them and they did not recognize Him!

A New Declaration for Agathos

We are a non-denominational Christian church where the Bible comes alive. As commissioned believers, we operate in Christ’s authority to:

- preach the gospel everywhere
- disciple nations
- cast out demons
- prophesy destiny
- and speak with new tongues.
- We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ
- protected from harm
- and lay hands on the sick who then recover.

I’ve searched for a vision for the church since becoming the lead pastor. I haven’t searched that hard because I knew we were already on the right track, but I still thought “you’re the lead pastor and you ought to have a vision written down.” But has since dawned on me that God has already given a vision for all the churches - the Great Commission!” So all of these declarations are simply the Great Commission (Mt. 28 and Mk. 16) as well as an Ephesians and 1 Corinthians 14 added in.

These statements are not theory to us - they are promises from God. Therefore, when we meet together, we share testimonies to stir up and encourage one other to love and good works as our Lord has called us to.

Testimony: Herniated disks with bone spurs healed - surgery canceled!

Megan shared about a woman came to church with her husband a few months ago. She shared at the time how she had a couple of disks that had herniated in the back of her neck. These disks also had bone spurs on them and it was causing pain down her left arm and it was a tingly, very painful nerve pain and was therefore a specific nerve medication for that.

As Megan prayed for her, she felt the Holy Spirit very strongly and encouraged her husband to get behind her in case she went out in the Spirit during prayer. That did end up happening as part of a beautiful ministry time.

A few months later, Peter and Megan got to see this couple and the wife shared a testimony! She works at an orthopedic surgeon's office and sometime after receiving prayer one of the doctors came over, asked her about her neck because it looked to him like she was better. She didn't know if she was better because she had been on such heavy nerve medication she couldn't feel it either way! The doctor then encouraged her to try stopping her nerve medication because it looked to him like her neck was all healed. Sure enough, no medication and no pain! No pain in her arm and her neck is all better! ***She had to cancel her surgery!*** Now, this faithful woman is giving testimony of Jesus' healing to many!

No believer has in and of themselves the ability to lay their hands on someone who then passes out, and has bone spurs and herniated disks healed. But, we all as believers have the Holy Spirit living in us and He wants to reach out and touch the World! We lay hands on the sick who then recover!

We also have "disciple nations" as one of our declarations. Included in discipling nations would of course be discipling individuals! We often don't think in the nation concept, but that is the apostolic perspective - to disciple / heavenize nations. Jesus said *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."* We want to be thinking in the nation-concept which means thinking in terms of your spheres of influence overall - not just individuals in them. The individuals in your spheres of influence and the sphere of influence overall are both meant to be disciplined according to the word of Christ - by you!

Testimony: Truth about Abortion shared with Friends

Sarah was with some friends who were talking about abortion and how it should be legal. Sarah could have just said nothing and let the conversation go, but she felt like she should say something so she started to speak out and say what she believed about abortion. She felt isolated, not-listened-to, and pretty attacked / put down. Feeling pretty discouraged afterwards, Sarah chose to spend time in the presence of the Lord.

The Lord spoke to her "whose approval do you seek? Do you seek the approval of man or do you speak the approval of God?" The Lord then highlighted Proverbs 18:2 to her *"A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart."*

God also highlighted 1 Peter 3:15-16 *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame (damage your good reputation) you as evildoers, those who revile (subject you to verbal abuse) your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."* Sarah felt encouraged in realizing this sort of defamation and reviling will happen and that we should not be discouraged because even if we suffer for righteousness' sake we are blessed. And do not be afraid of their threats because it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

It will surely happen that people do not listen to us at times, but as long as we do the right thing and stand up for what we believe in, then we will be blessed through it!

Barna Poll about Controversial Topics for Pastors

In 2014, George Barna released a poll in which they were interviewing conservative evangelical pastors. These were not pastors of churches that were homosexuality affirming or of a liberal ideology. These were conservative, bible-believing pastors.

When interviewed 90% of the pastors said the Bible speaks clearly about things like abortion and homosexuality, and other social issues. But the second part of the survey found that while the Bible speaks very clearly about these issues, the pastors themselves did not speak very clearly about these issues. 90% of the pastors acknowledged the word of the Lord about these controversial social issues, but only 10% of the same group of pastors said they ever spoke about them from the pulpit.

Why do I share that? Not to say “look, I am doing a good job sharing some of this stuff from the Word.” Not for that reason. I share this poll to help us understand why at times during this series you’ve perhaps wished I would not bring up these issues!

When I started the series and shared about the topics I was planning on covering, I said that I know some of you were thinking “Peter, why can’t you just let dead dogs lie!?! Why do you have to address these things?” (And, our body has been awesome at “going there” with me on these topics from the Word of God).

But, the ONLY reason it has been at all abnormal or uncomfortable that I am speaking about these issues from the pulpit is because even in evangelical, conservative churches 90% of them do not hear this from the pulpit. Were the statistic flipped where 90% of churches spoke up about what the Bible says on controversial issues like this, NONE of us would think it remotely odd or taxing that I was pressing into these issues!

If that were the case, because you had been reading your own Bible, and because nearly all the Bible-believing churches were saying what the Word of God says about these very poignant social issues, it would NEVER cross your cranial cavity to second-guess your pastor in “going there.” It never would!

Imagine if you went to a church and you felt like “I don’t know if they should really teach on Communion.” You would never think to question a church teaching about Communion. Why? Because there are 5 scriptures about it and you’ve read them right in your very own New Testament. And do you know what? There are 6 scriptures about homosexuality. If most churches spoke plainly about homosexuality from a Biblical perspective, it would never occur to someone who was reading their own Bible to put-off by a church talking about these things! Why would we not talk about

these things? They are right in the Bible and the nations need disciplined! We need to speak the truth in love. Remove truth from love and it is no longer Love.

Again, the reason I share this poll is to say that the only reason it may feel odd to hear about these things is because only 10% of conservative evangelical pastors are speaking about this. Were 90% of the pastors speaking about these topics, you would actually EXPECT a church to speak about these things based on what's written in the Word of God. You would say to yourself "that's fair game too. It's right there in the Word of God. I hope they speak about it."

What Sarah experienced is very real. If you are going to do the work of God you are going to suffer persecution. If you go 10 years doing the work of God and never suffer any persecution from anybody, you have reason to believe you might not be doing the work of God! If you don't have people giving you flak because you took a stand about not going to their "wedding" because it was not from God and you kindly told them why you weren't going to be there "hey you are my friends, I love you, but I can't support that - that's not marriage." And then you took flak about it from the couple and then you took flak about it from your friends who were still going to the "wedding" ... if you don't have some situation come up like that within a decade period of time you really have reason to question whether you are living Godly in this world.

Grace and Truth

John 1:17 says "*For the law was given through Moses, but **grace** and **truth** came through Jesus Christ.*" There has been a movement in the Body of Christ ... and when I bring something like this up, I am never being critical, I am simply trying to help you get the lay-of-the-land and help you see how many people in the Body of Christ are thinking because it affects our thinking. Paul says "don't be deceived, bad company corrupts good habits." So, sometimes you have to address what is going on around people so they can realize "oh, that's the culture that I am living in!" so you can clarify how it is you are supposed to live so that you can see how what the Word of God says is different than what you are seeing all around you.

Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ whom we love are resisting something they don't know that they are resisting because they haven't received something they don't know that they haven't received. What is actually happening a lot in the Body of Christ is that believers are not truly receiving grace and because they are not truly receiving grace, they are actually resisting truth.

Many believers have not truly received grace and because they have not truly received grace they find themselves resisting truth. The Bible says it's the goodness of God that leads us to change our mind - that leads us to repentance - to *metanoia*. The first foundational teaching according to Hebrews 5 and 6 is the "word of righteousness." How will we get any other teachings if we don't have the word (teaching) about being totally righteous in Christ apart from our own works?

The extent that we carry a revelation of grace actually determines our truth-bearing capacity. The extent that you have a revelation of grace determined your truth-bearing capacity. You cannot separate grace from the truth nor truth from grace! They both came in Jesus!

What I am saying is that Agathos has a revelation of grace and therefore can carry the truth! The tendency for believers is to not really know grace, and because they don't really know grace you have to back off the truth. But Jesus said *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."* (Mt. 5:17) Jesus also said *"Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven"* (Mt. 5:19a) But we don't need anything removed from the law because Jesus has fulfilled the whole law! But when you don't know that He has fulfilled the whole law you start paring things out of it that you can't handle on your own instead of just realizing He paid for it all!

There has been a war between truth and grace in the Body of Christ because of this. But God says "there is not meant to be a war between truth and grace." They go together. They coexist in a Person and His Name is Jesus! "Neither do I condemn you" (grace) and "go and sin no more" (truth). Don't ever allow anybody in the Body of Christ to try to get you to pit truth versus grace. The Lord is saying "there is a divine reconnection that is happening between truth and grace in this age" and both need to go together.

Should Believers be Actively Influencing the Abortion Culture?

The answer to this question is emphatically "yes!" for two reasons. The first reason is because believers have been commissioned apostolically according to Matthew 6:10 "thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Apostles were Roman delegates sent out from Rome to Romanize conquered territories. In Matthew 28 Jesus made it clear that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to Him. Earth is a heaven-conquered territory. We are instructed as believers to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations." In other words, we are to bring the culture of Heaven into every nation of earth. That includes physical nations but it also includes the entertainment industry, education industry, politics, business, media, and family. Those are nations. Those are authority structures that the Lord is wanting to Heavenize. So, the apostolic prayer is "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." So, of course the church is to be actively influencing the abortion culture - that is our call and our commission - to disciple the nations!

Secondly, if we don't disciple the nations, secular humanism will for us. I plan to come back around to this point in the homosexuality teaching in talking about how secular humanism often takes the form of Totalitarianism and how that must be resisted by the church. So, as believers, we should be actively influencing the abortion culture. Now let's therefore look at what God says about abortion.

God on Abortion #1: Children are Blessing from the Lord, not a Burden

Our culture has become so backwards in this. Children are a blessing from the Lord, not a burden! Psalm 127:3-5 *“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. Happy (BLESSED) is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.”* s

There was a day when children were seen as a blessing - not a burden! Now we see all sorts of studies that say things like “average child costs \$200,000 to raise to adulthood.” What sort of perspective is that?! That’s so backwards of the Word of God! Children are a blessing, not a burden!

God on Abortion #2: God Himself made us uniquely in our mother’s womb

God made us and saw us as true, individual humans with unique characteristics while we were yet in our mother’s womb! Jeremiah 1:5 says *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”*

Psalms 139:13-16 shows the same revelation from our Heavenly Father *“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.”*

God was looking so intently at you as He was knitting you together! And God was intently looking at every baby that has ever been aborted. Are babies being killed in Heaven? Therefore, they shall not be killed on earth. That’s the Matthew 6:10 apostolic perspective. God was watching every baby that has ever been aborted. He was knitting them together in their mother’s womb.

God on Abortion #3: God made us all - from the least to the greatest!

God makes all children ... not just those in certain stations of life. From the greatest to the least, God made them! I know this sounds obvious, but if you listen to the secular humanism agenda, you will actually hear arguments that deride this basic understanding. From the greatest to the least, God has made all men!

People will say “that baby is going to be born into poverty. They are not going to have a good life. We should abort them.”

Job said *“If I have **despised the cause of my male or female servant** when they complained against me, What then shall I do when God rises up When He punishes, how shall I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make them? **Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?**” (31:13-15)*

Job was wealthy. His servants were probably not born into such a high station in life. Job was saying “didn’t God make my slaves just as much as He made me?” And therefore “won’t God be displeased if I despise those He also made?” God has made all men - from every station of life, God has made us!

God on Abortion #4: Babies can perceive spirits and experience emotions the womb

Babies have the ability to experience emotion and perceive spirits in the womb. We have to think in practical terms about these truths from scripture. The baby that was aborted a few seconds ago - and the 2,899 more boys and girls that will be aborted in America today - each of those babies has the ability to experience emotions and perceive spirits in the womb.

“Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ... ‘For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.’” (Lk. 1:39-41, 44)

John the Baptist perceived the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ, who was in Mary’s womb and then leaped for an emotion - named joy - because of the perception of a spirit!

Babies in the womb are not just a blob of cells!

God on Abortion #5: Causing the death of a fetus is considered murder

Now let’s look at Exodus 21:22-25. Remember to not divorce grace and truth. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness sake for all of those who believe. (Romans 10:4) That doesn’t mean that there are still not truths in the law that show how God thinks about things. Jesus didn’t come to abolish the law - just to fulfill it. We are right before God solely because Jesus is right before God and we have believed in Him. We must rightly divide the Word, but we do not need to throw out all the truths originally shared in the Old Covenant because we live in the New Covenant. Christ is the end of the law for the purpose of righteousness - AND there is still truth from the Old Covenant that we can see very clearly. So, read the Old Covenant in light of the New Covenant, but let’s watch how God thinks about murder in Exodus 21.

*“If men struggle with each other and **strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely**, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman’s husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. **“But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty **life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.**”** (Ex. 21:22-25)*

What's the context of this verse? It is NOT about a mother dying! It is about her giving birth prematurely. This is not saying "life for life" penalty if the mother dies. It is talking about if she gives birth pre-maturely, here are the penalties depending on the condition of the baby that is born prematurely. Therefore, when it says "life for life" whose life was lost? The baby's!

So, God thinks that striking a pregnant woman and causing the death of a fetus is considered murder. That's how God thinks about abortion; He considers it murder. It is right there in Exodus 21. He is saying "if that baby is born dead because the woman was hit by 2 men fighting with each other" then the man who hit her should be counted as having murdered the baby.

Now, we live in the New Covenant, and this doesn't mean that we need to kill this person necessarily. But we are trying to glean from God's word what He thinks about abortion - and we see that if a baby is killed in the womb it should be considered murder ... and this case even if it is accidental!

Do you know that this is also the law of America? If someone commits a vehicular homicide because they were drunk, and the lady who was driving in the car dies and she was pregnant, they are guilty of double-murder in our nation. Yet, if that same woman was not hit by that car that day but instead drove to an abortion clinic where a medical doctor crushes the baby while in her womb, it is not called single-murder! That math just isn't right! The first law is actually in line with the Word of God, the second is not.

God on Abortion #6: Abortion / child sacrifice existed in Bible times too

Abortion / child sacrifice existed in bible times too. The Phoenicians gave to the god Molech (see Leviticus 20. Moelch was a metal idol and they would heat it up and they would "pass the baby through" Molech. Basically they would sacrifice their first baby to Molech because they believed that would bless their family. Tradition says the onlookers would play music loudly to cover up the screams of the dying baby. God will talk about the god of Molech ... that is what that is: child sacrifice.

Leviticus 20:1-3 makes this clear "*Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: 'Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name.'*"

God on Abortion #7: Do not turn a "blind eye" to abortion in your land

If we continue in Leviticus 20 with verses 4 and 5 we see that God gives a very stern warning about the people of the land hiding their eye or ignoring the killing of children "*And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives some of his descendants to Molech, and they*

do not kill him, then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech.”

Again this is the New Covenant. We do not need to kill someone who has performed or had an abortion. In fact they need ministered to, thank you. That's grace. We are also trying to get God's heart on the matter of abortion - what does He consider it to be? Here in Leviticus 20 we see *“if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives some of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him, then I will set My face against that man and against his family ...”*

Proverbs 24:11-12 conveys the same sentiment *“Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?”*

Do not turn a blind eye to abortion. Do not claim you didn't know what it was. Do not allow the din of music played by on-lookers (or verbiage from the media and popular culture) keep you from hearing the cries. It is murder. We know it. God wants us to speak up about it and bring Heavenly culture to earth. Babies are not being killed in Heaven and they should not be being killed on earth.

Speak the Truth in Love

The Bible is clear - (1) babies that are in the womb are fully human and should be protected. (2) God considers it murder to kill a baby in the womb. (3) We see that God will hold those accountable who do not protect babies from being sacrificed.

This is not about going to heaven or hell. Only our faith in Christ determines that. This is about finding out what is acceptable to God so we can disciple nations. Ephesians 5 says we should find out *“what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”* This is very much an unfruitful work of darkness because abortion takes a baby God has been forming and eliminates the fruit of the womb which was meant to be a blessing!

We should be exposing abortion, not standing party to it. Just like Sarah said, sometimes when we tell people the truth, sometimes they will hates us for telling them the truth. Know that whenever you are at the cutting edge of spear-point of truth in a situation you will encounter resistance. The key is that Sarah went to the Word of God afterwards to bring resolution to her heart. She saw that she was blessed when they revile you for righteousness sake.

Next time you are in a situation like Sarah and you are wondering if you should speak up and tell people the truth in love about a certain situation, consider your audience. We see the adult in front of us who we may know is going to strongly disagree with the Word on some salient issue. We may know that person will be angry with us for telling them the truth. Do you know who we forget

about? God is also in our audience! God is in the room with us saying “speak up. Speak the truth in love. I love them so much I died for them. I’ve been hand-crafting and knitting that child together. I don’t want him to be killed. I don’t want her to be killed. Speak the truth in love. Who cares about your reputation. You will get a bigger reputation in Heaven. Speak the truth in love.” God is in the room with us every single time we have an opportunity like this “lo, I am with you always even until the end of this age!”

Last October the Lord told me (Peter) to start speaking out against abortion. Sometimes friends will push back on what I share. (By the way, this is not a huge hardship. It is easier to defend the truth than it is to defend a lie. We don’t have it that hard). But, when I get that push back, something I sometimes do to help myself stand strong is I imagine the 12 week old baby next to me who doesn’t have a voice yet and I will ask myself “self, do you still feel bad that confronted that person’s pro-abortion ideology? Do I still feel bad that they don’t quite like what I said?” If I saw a 5 year old kid being brutalized on the street, would I not go and take care of business to save that kid? And yet because we can’t see it and because it’s in the womb we step back and say “I hope no one brings that up” because I don’t want to think about it.

So, when I get push back, I force myself to ask “what does God think about what I am sharing?” Watch yourself though! Don’t speak truth without love because it is no longer the Truth because God is love and He is also the Truth! I could speak truth and then ask God “what do you think about what I shared” and He may say “I don’t like how you said that ... it may have been straight from My word but it wasn’t straight from My heart - you didn’t speak it from love.” But at the same time, if I speak the truth in love and they deride me and I ask God about it and He says “I think that was beautiful” then just pay for His audience! We don’t need to be playing for anyone else’s audience.

Also remember that the adult in front of you who has a pro-abortion ideology is not the only person involved in the situation. They may be a little bit offended because you are confronting them with truth, but there is also that 12 week old boy or that 24 week old girl who are saying “I don’t have a voice but I hope someone speaks up for me.”

A Prayer

For anyone reading who has experienced or played any part in abortion. Some through coercion. Some through personal choice. For any and all that have experienced or been a part of abortion, we want to speak to your pain and point you to the Cross of Jesus Christ. The Word of God says “he who loves much has been forgiven much.” We speak healing to your heart TODAY. You are loved with an everlasting love. We pray that the God of all comfort would comfort you in Jesus’ Name.

Discussion Intro (for reading as a group ...)

There is no need to re-invent God's vision for churches. He has empowered us to preach the gospel everywhere, disciple nations, cast out demons, prophesy destiny, and speak with new tongues. We are blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ, protected from harm, and lay hands on the sick who then recover! These are not theories to us, but promises from the Word of God for us to walk in ... and we are hearing testimonies weekly of exactly that!

Grace and truth co-exist in a Person and His name is Jesus! And what God has joined together let no man separate! God wants the body of Christ to not only know what He says but also to disciple nations accordingly.

It's easy to brush abortion under the rug - out of sight, out of mind. But God says "don't ignore it! Don't turn a blind eye to it!" The Bible is clear that abortion is murder and we are called to speak up for those who don't yet have a voice. God individually fashioned each one of us and has beautiful plans for every unborn child. May we partner with God to see those plans come to pass!

Points to Ponder . . .

- Why are declarations so powerful?
- Did anything stand out to you from Megan's testimony about the bone spurs / herniated disks?
- Did anything stand out to you from Sarah's testimony about speaking up with friends in love?
- Did anything stand out to you about the 2014 Barna poll of conservative evangelical pastors?
- How can there not be a divide between grace and truth?
- What statements from scripture about abortion stood out to you? Why?
- How can remembering the "other members" of our audience help us speak up with the truth in love?