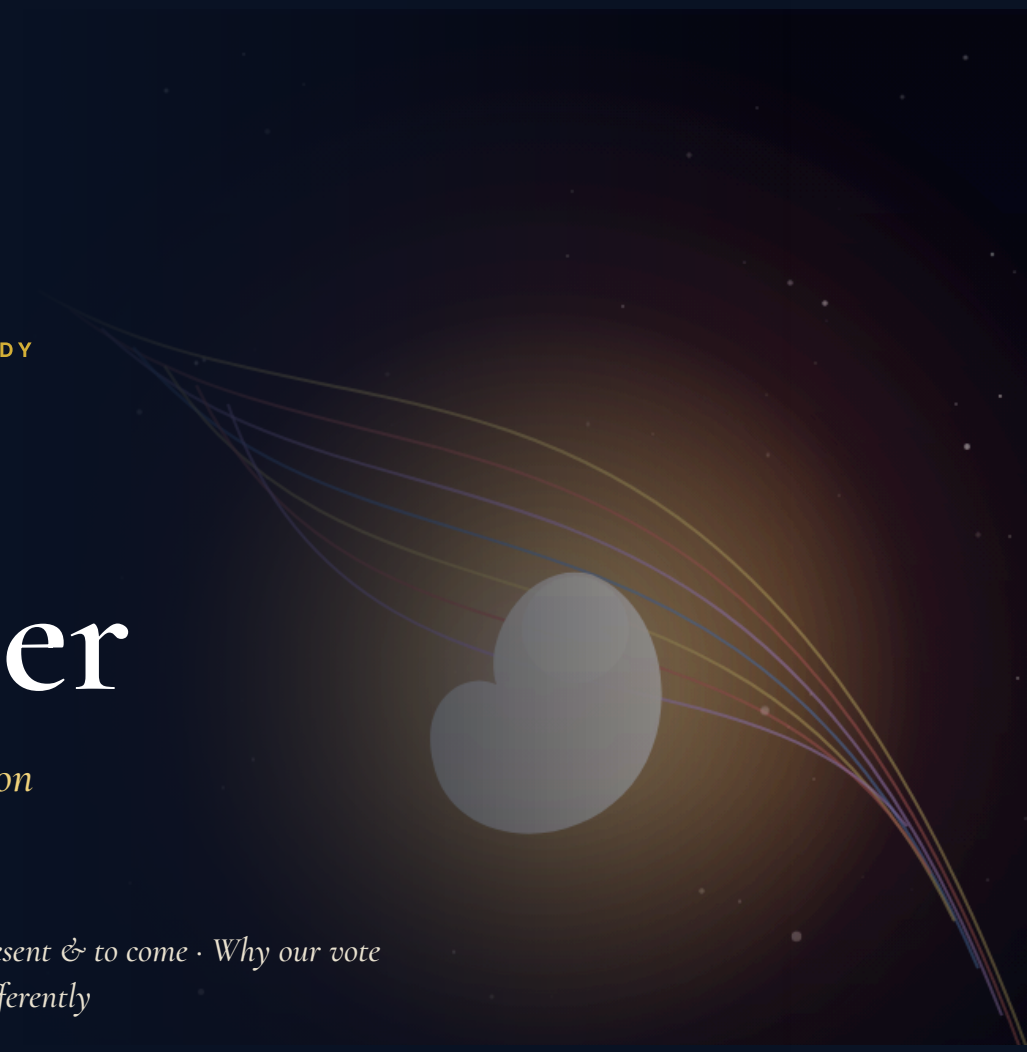
A SMITH FOR CHRIST BIBLE STUDY

Knit Together

A Biblical Stance on Abortion



Absolute truth · The culture past, present & to come · Why our vote counts · Loving those who believe differently

"For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb."
— Psalm 139:13

ED SMITH · SMITH FOR CHRIST PUBLISHING · OCTOBER 2026

BEFORE WE BEGIN

Why This, Why Now

Few questions divide our families, churches and neighborhoods like this one. Many of us would rather stay quiet. But silence is not neutral, and the Bible is not silent. Scripture speaks plainly about who a child in the womb is, about what God asks of His people, and about how we are to treat those who see the world differently than we do.

This study does three things. It lays out what God has said. It traces the culture: the world of the past, the world we live in now, and the world prophecy says is coming. And it asks how a follower of Jesus votes, speaks and loves in the middle of it, holding conviction in one hand and compassion in the other.

> *Here is my conviction, stated plainly: every human life bears the image of God from its beginning, and God's people are called to defend it. Every woman facing a hard pregnancy, and every man and woman who carries the weight of a past abortion, deserves the church's love, not its contempt. Truth and grace are not opposites. In Jesus they are one.*

1,126,760
abortions in the U.S. in 2025, about 93,900 a month
#WECOUNT, SOCIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING

28%
of 2025 abortions provided by telehealth, mostly pills by mail
#WECOUNT

13
states enforcing a total ban, Texas among them
GUTTMACHER, SEPT 2026

4
abortion measures on state ballots on Nov 3, 2026
KFF

HOW THIS STUDY IS MARKED

God — His character & actions
Promise / blessing
Sin / warning
Time / place / contrast
Command / instruction
Key repeated word

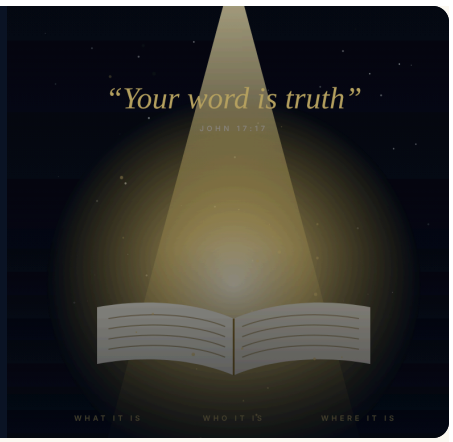
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SECTION

01

Absolute Truth: What It Is, Who It Is, Where We Find It



KEY VERSE · John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "△I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Q1 What is absolute truth?

A **Truth that is true for everyone, everywhere, always, whether we like it or not. It does not bend to opinion, polls or feelings, because it rests on the character of a God who does not change.**

PSALM 119:160 · NASB95

△The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting.

ISAIAH 40:8 · NASB95

The grass withers, the flower fades, But ☆the word of our God stands forever.

JOHN 18:38 · NASB95

Pilate said to Him, "⚠What is truth?"

COMMENTARY

Our culture speaks of "my truth" and "your truth." But if truth is only personal, then no one can say any act is wrong, including the exposure of infants in Rome or the fires of Molech. Without absolute truth, the strong decide who counts.

Pilate asked his question while Truth stood in front of him. Many still do.

Q2 Who is the truth?

A **Truth is not only an idea. Truth is a Person. Jesus did not say He knew the truth or taught the truth. He said, "I am the truth."**

JOHN 8:31–32 · NASB95

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and ☆you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

JOHN 16:13 · NASB95

But when He, △the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;

COMMENTARY

Because truth is a Person, standing for truth is never a license to be cruel. We are representing Him, so we speak the way He speaks.

The question of life is finally a question about Jesus. The One who is the truth is also the One who said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me" (Matthew 19:14).

Q3 Where do we find it?

A **In the written Word of God, opened by the Spirit of God, and pointing to the Son of God. Scripture is the measuring line for every opinion, including our own.**

JOHN 17:17 · NASB95

Sanctify them in the truth; △Your word is truth.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16–17 · NASB95

△All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

COMMENTARY

That is why this study begins with Scripture before it looks at polls, laws or elections. The culture shifts. The Word stands. We bring our convictions to the Bible to be tested, not the other way around.

SECTION

02

What God Says About Life



KEY VERSE · Psalm 139:13–14

For △You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am ☆fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

Q1 Who is the child in the womb, according to Scripture?

A **A person God is making. The Bible never speaks of the unborn as tissue or potential. It speaks of a someone whom God forms, knows and calls before birth.**

GENESIS 1:27 · NASB95

God created man △in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

JEREMIAH 1:5 · NASB95

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.

PSALM 139:15–16 · NASB95

My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; △Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

COMMENTARY

David uses the language of a weaver. God "wove" him and "skillfully wrought" him. Before David had a face, God's eyes were on his "unformed substance," and his days were already written. Worth belongs to a person because God made him and loves him, not because of his size, ability or stage of growth.

Jeremiah's calling came before his birth. God's relationship with a person does not begin at delivery. It begins with God's own knowing.

Q2 Does the Bible treat the unborn the same as the born?

A **Yes. Luke uses the same Greek word for John in the womb that he uses for Jesus in the manger and for the little children brought to Jesus.**

LUKE 1:41 · NASB95

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

LUKE 1:44 · NASB95

For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

JOB 31:15 · NASB95

Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?

COMMENTARY

The word is brephos, baby. Luke uses it for John at six months in the womb (1:41, 44), for the newborn Jesus "wrapped in cloths" (2:12), and for the babies brought to Jesus to be blessed (18:15). Born or unborn, Scripture uses one word.

Job grounds human equality in the womb. The same God fashioned master and servant there, so neither may treat the other as less.

Q3 What does God command concerning innocent life?

A **He forbids the shedding of innocent blood, and He commands His people to rescue those being taken to death.**

EXODUS 20:13 · NASB95

You shall not murder.

GENESIS 9:6 · NASB95

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

PROVERBS 6:16–17 · NASB95

There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And ⚠ hands that shed innocent blood,

PROVERBS 24:11–12 · NASB95

Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, "See, we did not know this," Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

COMMENTARY

No one is more innocent than a child who has done nothing at all. Proverbs 24 removes the excuse of not knowing. God weighs the heart, and He knows what we knew.

This command is not only for laws and governments. It is first a call to rescue: to stand beside the mother, to make room for the child, and to hold back what is heading toward death.

SECTION

03
The Culture of the Past



KEY VERSE · Psalm 106:37–38

They even ⚠sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons, And ⚠shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters, Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was polluted with the blood.

Q1 Is this a new question?

A **No. Every age has found reasons to sacrifice its children. In Canaan the altar was Molech's. In Rome it was the roadside. The idol changes its name, and the cost to children stays the same.**

LEVITICUS 18:21 · NASB95

You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

JEREMIAH 32:35 · NASB95

They built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I had not commanded them △nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

COMMENTARY

Molech worship was about getting ahead. Parents gave up a child to buy prosperity, security or the gods' favor. God's verdict is striking: it never "entered My mind." The valley of Ben-hinnom became Gehenna, the word Jesus used for hell.

In the Greco-Roman world, unwanted infants, often girls or the disabled, were "exposed": left outside to die. A letter from Egypt dated 1 B.C. has a husband writing to his pregnant wife, "If it is a boy, keep it; if a girl, cast it out." It was ordinary. It was legal.

Q2 How did the early church respond?

A **They refused to take part, and they rescued. The first Christians became known as the people who did not destroy their children and who took in the children others threw away.**

PSALM 68:5 · NASB95

△ A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

JAMES 1:27 · NASB95

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

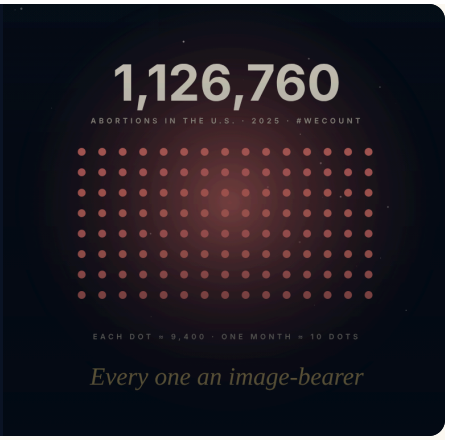
COMMENTARY

The Didache, a church manual from about A.D. 100, says it plainly: "You shall not murder a child by abortion, nor kill one that is born." The Letter to Diognetus, from the second century, describes Christians this way: "They marry, as do all; they beget children; but they do not destroy their offspring."

They did not have political power. What they had was a different way of life, lived out in public. Over time that witness helped change the conscience of an empire. Rome's law moved against killing infants under Christian emperors in the fourth century.

SECTION

04
The Culture of the Present



KEY VERSE · Isaiah 5:20

⚠Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Q1 Where do we stand in 2026?

A **Since the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision on June 24, 2022, each state writes its own law. The result is a divided map, and, by the #WeCount tally, more abortions nationwide each year since 2022, not fewer.**

- 13 states enforce a total ban, including Texas. 28 more limit abortion at some point in pregnancy. Florida, Georgia, Iowa and South Carolina at about six weeks. (Guttmacher, as of Sept 17, 2026)
- 1,126,760 abortions took place in 2025, slightly above 2024, which averaged 92,400 a month. Telehealth provided about 28%, rising to 29% by December. (#WeCount, Society of Family Planning)
- Texas is a total-ban state. Its HB 7, in effect since December 4, 2025, lets citizens sue those who make or mail abortion pills into Texas. The woman herself cannot be sued.
- 60% of American adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases. 38% say illegal in all or most. (Pew Research, Jan 2026)

COMMENTARY

The battle moved from the clinic to the mailbox. A ruling changed the law in many states. It did not change hearts, and laws alone never will. That work belongs to the gospel and to the people of God.

Isaiah's woe fits our moment. A culture that calls the loss of a child "care" and calls conviction "hate" has swapped the labels on good and evil. Our job is to label things truthfully, and to do it with tears, not sneers.

Q2 Is the church part of the answer, or part of the silence?

A **Too often, the silence. Many women who choose abortion are sitting in our pews, and they do not believe the church is a safe place to tell the truth.**

- In a Lifeway Research survey, 4 in 10 women who had an abortion were attending church monthly or more at the time.
- 52% of those churchgoers said no one at their church knows.
- 64% believed church members were more likely to gossip about a woman considering abortion than to help her.
- Only 41% believed churches were prepared to help with an unwanted pregnancy.

> GALATIANS 6:2 · NASB95
>
> Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

COMMENTARY

If a frightened young woman cannot tell her church she is pregnant, our sermons have outrun our love. The pro-life church has to be the safest place in town to be pregnant, and the safest place to confess a past abortion.

SECTION

05
The Culture to Come: What Prophecy Tells Us



KEY VERSE · Isaiah 65:20

No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed.

Q1 What does Scripture say the last days will look like?

A **A world that loves itself and loses natural affection. Paul's list is a mirror of our age.**

2 TIMOTHY 3:1–3 · NASB95

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

MATTHEW 24:12 · NASB95

Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

COMMENTARY

"Unloving" translates astorgos: without natural family affection, the bond between parent and child. Paul puts "lovers of self" first in the list. When the self is on the throne, the child becomes an obstacle.

Prophecy is not a reason to give up. It is a reason to be faithful. Jesus told His servants what to do until He returns.

Q2 Then what do we do while we wait?

A **We do business until He comes: speak, serve, rescue and vote, knowing the final word belongs to Him.**

LUKE 19:13 · NASB95

And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’

DEUTERONOMY 30:19 · NASB95

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,

COMMENTARY

Watching for the Lord's return is never passive. The servants who were waiting were busy.

Q3 What future has God promised?

A **A world full of children. The story does not end with Molech's fire or Rome's roadside. It ends with streets full of boys and girls, and with every tear wiped away.**

ZECHARIAH 8:5 · NASB95

And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.

ISAIAH 65:23 · NASB95

They will not labor in vain, Or bear children for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them.

REVELATION 21:4 · NASB95

and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

COMMENTARY

In the kingdom, no child is born "for calamity." That is the world we are heading toward, and the world we preview every time we welcome a child, adopt or foster, or carry a mother's burden.

Every tear includes the tears of the mother who grieves a choice she cannot undo, and the father who said nothing. The King who wipes them away is the same one who forgives.

SECTION

06

Why Our Vote Counts



KEY VERSE · Proverbs 31:8–9

Open your mouth for the mute, For the rights of all the unfortunate. Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Q1 Should a Christian bring his faith into the voting booth?

A **Yes. Everyone votes from what they believe matters most. God gave government a purpose, and in a self-governing nation the citizen shares in that stewardship.**

ROMANS 13:4 · NASB95

for it is △a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

PROVERBS 29:2 · NASB95

When the righteous increase, ☆the people rejoice, But when a wicked man rules, people groan.

JEREMIAH 29:7 · NASB95

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare.

COMMENTARY

Paul wrote under Nero and had no vote. We have one. What Paul could only pray for, we can pray for and act on. A vote is a small, real piece of the authority God assigns to government, and like every trust it will be accounted for.

The unborn cannot vote, march or speak. Proverbs 31 calls us to open our mouth "for the mute." For many believers the ballot is the one place where that voice is counted.

Q2 How do I weigh my vote?

A **By conviction, not by party loyalty. No party or candidate is the kingdom of God. Weigh every candidate and every measure by what it protects and what it permits.**

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Voters in Virginia, Nevada and Idaho will decide measures that would protect abortion rights. Missouri will vote on Amendment 3, which would repeal its 2024 abortion-rights amendment and ban most abortions. (KFF)

- Texas has no abortion measure on its statewide ballot. The officials Texans elect still write, keep or change its laws.

MICAH 6:8 · NASB95

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

COMMENTARY

Pray before you vote. Read the measures in full, not just the ads. Ask how each choice treats the weakest: the child in the womb, and also the mother who needs help to carry that child.

A pro-life vote is also a promise. If we vote to protect the child, we owe the mother care, and we owe the child a welcome. Micah keeps justice and kindness together.

SECTION

07
Loving Those Who Believe Differently



KEY VERSE · 1 Peter 3:15

but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Q1 How do I talk with someone who disagrees with me?

A **Listen first. Speak the truth in love. Remember that the person across from you bears the same image of God you are defending.**

JAMES 1:19 · NASB95

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

EPHESIANS 4:15 · NASB95

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

COLOSSIANS 4:6 · NASB95

Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

COMMENTARY

Most people who disagree with us have reasons, and often a story. Some fear for women in medical emergencies. Some do not trust the government with a decision this personal. Some have lived through what we only talk about. Hear the reasons before you answer them.

Ask questions rather than fire slogans. "When do you think a life begins to matter?" will go further than any bumper sticker. You can disagree completely and still be the kindest person in the conversation.

Q2 Can I hold my conviction and keep the relationship?

A **Yes. Jesus did it constantly. He was full of grace and truth, and the people who disagreed with Him kept coming back to the table.**

JOHN 1:14 · NASB95

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, △ full of grace and truth.

2 TIMOTHY 2:24–25 · NASB95

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,

ROMANS 12:18 · NASB95

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

MATTHEW 5:44 · NASB95

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

COMMENTARY

Grace without truth is sentiment. Truth without grace is a club. Jesus never traded one for the other, and neither should we.

Changing hearts is God's work. Paul says God "may grant" repentance. Our part is to be kind, patient and clear, and to leave the results to Him.

SECTION

08

Grace for the Wounded, Strength to Stand



KEY VERSE · Romans 8:1

Therefore there is now ☆no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Q1 What about the mothers and fathers who have already chosen abortion?

A **There is forgiveness at the cross, full and free. No sin is beyond the blood of Jesus, and the church should be the first to say so.**

1 JOHN 1:9 · NASB95

If we confess our sins, ☆He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ISAIAH 1:18 · NASB95

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "☆Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool."

COMMENTARY

Some reading this carry a secret, women and men alike. Fathers carry it too, sometimes for pushing, sometimes for staying silent. Hear this: the gospel is for you. Confession leads to cleansing, not to shame. Many churches and pregnancy centers offer post-abortion healing groups, and walking into one takes courage.

If we speak about abortion without ever speaking about forgiveness, we have preached half a gospel.

Q2 How do I stand firm without growing hard?

A **Hold the line in love. Paul puts the two commands side by side.**

> **1 CORINTHIANS 16:13–14 · NASB95**
>
> Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.

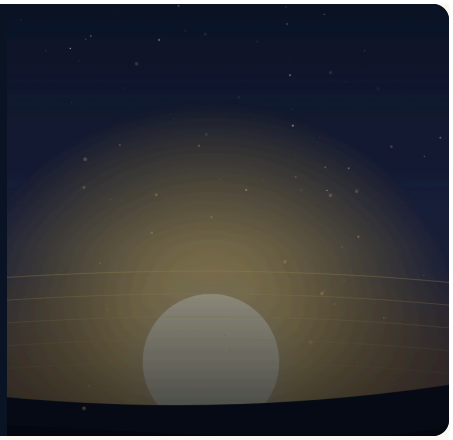
> **JOSHUA 24:15 · NASB95**
>
> If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

COMMENTARY

Firm and loving are not opposites. A father can be both, and so can a church. Stand where God stands on the value of life, and let the way you stand make people want to know your Savior.

SECTION

09 Living It Out



SEVEN COMMITMENTS

- [ ] Pray daily for mothers in crisis, for the unborn, for those who disagree with you, and for our leaders.
- [ ] Vote your convictions on November 3. Study the candidates and measures, and pray before you choose.
- [ ] Support a local pregnancy resource center with your time, money or skills.
- [ ] Make your church a safe place to be pregnant and a safe place to confess. Never gossip.
- [ ] Consider foster care, adoption, or supporting a family who does.
- [ ] Have one honest, kind conversation this month with someone who sees this differently. Listen more than you speak.
- [ ] If abortion is part of your own story, take one step toward healing. Talk to a pastor or join a post-abortion recovery group.

QUESTIONS FOR THE TABLE

1. Psalm 139 says God wove you in the womb. How does that change the way you see your own worth?
2. Molech promised prosperity in exchange for children. What does our culture promise in exchange for the same?
3. Why do you think so many women in church tell no one? What would have to change in our church?
4. What would "voting your convictions" look like for you this November?
5. Think of someone you love who disagrees with you on this. What could you ask them, and how could you listen?

6 Where do you need to stand firmer? Where do you need to love better?

A Prayer

Father, You formed every one of us in our mother's womb, and You know our days before one of them came to be. Give us courage to speak for those who cannot speak, and gentleness when we do. Comfort every mother who is afraid, and every father who has walked away. Heal those who carry the weight of a past choice, and let them hear that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. Guide us as we vote, keep us from pride and from fear, and make Your church a place of welcome. Until You come, keep us faithful, and let all we do be done in love. In the name of Jesus, who took little children in His arms and blessed them. Amen.

Stand firm. Love well. — Ed

RESEARCH

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8. Scripture quotations from the New American Standard Bible (NASB95), © The Lockman Foundation.

Figures are current as of October 29, 2026. Laws and court cases change; check your state's official election site for current voting information.