



Sermon – February 3, 2019
Chris Osborne

Verses Covered

Genesis 1:26

Psalms 139:13 - 18

Jeremiah 1:4 - 5

So I feel compelled this morning to speak to an issue that we're wrestling with in the country. As a matter of fact, when we looked at the beginning of Ephesians chapter 2, it made the statement that the culture drives decisions of the culture and that culture laughed at, I'm sure, in every educational institution in America, but what the Bible would teach is that culture is controlled by Satan. He directs that. The Bible says he's a murderer and a liar. And that's now beginning to be the direction we're going. So I'm going to speak today to the sanctity of life. I know we have kids in here so I'm going to be very careful, very cautious. But I do think we need to understand what the Bible says about what we face in our culture. And how to respond to what we face in our culture. I don't want us ever as a church to base what we believe on what a culture directs us to. And that's what I'm hearing. So I want us to walk through real carefully today, real quickly, what the Bible says.

We're going to start in Genesis, chapter 1. Here's what the Bible says. If you have your Bibles, I want you to keep them open. Walk with me. We're going to go to a couple of other scriptures. But here's what it says. In 1:26.

²⁶Then God said, "Let's make man in Our image, after Our likeness; they'll have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the livestock over all the earth, and over every creeping thing." ²⁷So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

People are in God's image. Nothing else on this planet is. We are. So when you value anything above us, you've stepped away from the scripture. When we care more about, and you get penalized far more for the breaking of an egg of a Bald Eagle versus what happens to kids in the womb. Then understand we have lost our understanding of what the scripture would teach. Animals don't really converse. And you can get them to mimic sign language, but they don't sit in the field and converse. They don't build anything. When you show me two gorillas that build a hospital, I will tell you the Bible's wrong. I'm good there. They don't, and the one that's telling

to me, they don't converse. They don't think like we do. They don't create like we do. They have the inability to appreciate God's beauty. When I hunt, I have never not been mesmerized by a sunset or a sunrise. Every time I'm caught up in that moment. There's not a single animal in the world that's caught up in that moment because they're not in the image of the artist of the universe. We are distinct. Now this is imperative because if we're not, then we don't really have any value. We're a little further along the scale, but it always amazes me we have an education system now in this country that will teach the kids you've evolved. And then say you need to have good self-esteem. That doesn't go hand in hand. Because if you evolve, you're not in the image of anything except what you evolved from. But we are the image of the Creator of the universe. That is a distinction every child in the womb is.

Now go with me to the book of Psalm 139. And I want you to listen to what the scripture says. It's interesting how he plays this out. We're going to read this and then we're going to go straight to Jeremiah 1 and I want to juxtapose these two passages. Here it says in verse 13, Psalm 139.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written every one of them the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was one of them. ¹⁷How precious to me Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with You.

He tells you three things. In the womb, God did the knitting. Number two, that He knitted you and when you come out, you've got a set time span for your life. And thirdly, he says there's not a day in that time span, no matter how you're knitted in the womb, that His thoughts are not directed toward you. David says they're more than the sand in the seashore. Now he's very precise about that. Now go to Jeremiah, chapter 1 beginning in verse 4. It says,

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Now if you put all that together, every child in every womb has a purpose before insertion in that womb from God. God knits that child together. He has a set number of days because He's got a purpose for that child. There is no child in any womb that God has not had an eternal purpose and a forming of for that purpose and a set number of days for that purpose to be lived out. And therefore, I have no right to step into a womb and terminate a life. I don't have the right to that. Because He's the one orchestrating that. I never have a right. That's why the Bible says, taking life, except in the case of a police officer protecting us, is absolutely wrong. That includes people in a nursing home, from birth to then, there is no taking of life that is legitimate in the eyes of the Creator of the universe. That's it.

Now understand, this is why this church left the Baptist General Convention of Texas. When I was, we were at a convention one year, and they had a position paper from the Christian Life Commission, and when I read it, I called the head of the Christian Life Commission. And he called

me back and he said, "What's the problem." I said, "I read your position paper on life termination in the womb. This thing's wide open." He said, "Do you think we can drive a truck through that? Anybody can terminate a life and be OK." I said, "Absolutely that's what it teaches." So we went to the floor of the convention to try to change the paper, and they told us back then, "You can't do that. You have no right." Even though it was the church's money paying for the convention. We had no right to do that. So we pulled out because you don't terminate the life in the womb.

Now I'm going to walk through some difficult things here. Again, not graphic. But I want you to understand, because we're going to walk through their paper. The first thing they said in their paper is you can terminate the life in the womb for the life of the mother. I talked last Wednesday night to one of the sharpest doctors in this church. And he shared with me. He said, "That is no longer medically an issue." So we're taking that off the table. You don't get to terminate the life of a child with the mother's life in danger. Second thing was in case, I'm trying to be very careful in here, in case of a pregnancy that was forced on a lady. I used to think that that was legit until I was here probably 3 or 4 years. And I'm not sharing anything confidential. This young man shared it every church he's been at. But I remember one night I get a call from a lady in Midland named Barbara. And she said, "Listen, I need to talk to you about James. He is struggling because his dad won't spend any time with him. What should I tell him?" I said, "Barb, I don't even understand what you're talking about. What are you talking about?" She said, "You didn't know?" I said, "Apparently, I wasn't." She said, "James was a product of a forced pregnancy in my life. And his, the guy he thinks is his dad isn't. He married me to cover up the pregnancy. And that's why he doesn't want to spend any time with him." James was a pastor in San Antonio because apparently Jeremiah 1 is true regardless of how the pregnancy occurs. So I can't terminate the life for that. Third reason was given; I hate this phrase. I hate it. But it's the term used today. It was fetal deformity. I hate that phrase. Number one, it meant my son would have his life terminated because he had four surgeries as a little guy. And he would have fit into that category. There is a particular syndrome that fits inside that category. That when mothers know they have this issue in the child, that the termination of life rate in this country is 67 to 85%. In other countries, it's 90%. But amazingly, they did a study with these young people with this issue. They studied a group of people from age 12 to age 40. You know what they discovered? 96 to 99% loved the way they looked, loved their lives, loved the way they were. You can't get that percentage in a single class of school anywhere in America because maybe we're the ones with the special needs, not them.

You know it's interesting to me. I have never met a parent of a special needs child that is ever wishing they had terminated the child. When I was in Midland, we had a young lady in our church, cognitively challenged, couldn't really speak, she was in a wheelchair, there every Sunday. Her mom brought her every Sunday. And every Sunday she would sign to me. I love you. And then one day she came forward. Her mother wheeled her forward during the invitation. And she signed with our Education Minister that she'd asked Jesus into her heart. Baptized her. Put about 4 men in the baptistery with me. We got her down. She's got all sorts of issues. Pulled her back up. Not a dry eye in the church. And if you ask her mother, Nan, "Nan, is it hard raising her?" "Yes." "Is it tiring?" "Yes." "The dreams you might have had; they're not going to be fulfilled in her are they?" "No." "Do you wish she wasn't in your life?" "No." Because that little girl enriched a whole church. I hate the phrase fetal deformity because that is absolutely incorrect.

And then the other thing was emotional trauma. There is no pregnancy and birth that is not emotionally difficult. So we left that convention because I don't think there's a single reason when you ever have the right based on Genesis 1, Psalm 139, and Jeremiah 1. If those are true, I never have a right to terminate a child.

So what do we do? Because our culture is now a culture of death. So what do we do with that? Number one, you vote. You need to be voting anyway. We're the only, one of the few countries in the world, we pick our leaders. You vote. And you don't ever vote, it's not pro-choice, it's pro-death. You always vote pro-life. We have a man in this church, Bill Flores, he's a congressman in Washington. I don't vote for him because he's a member of Central. I vote for him because he's pro-life. If there are two people running for office and they're both pro-death, then I'm going to right in somebody who's pro-life. I am never going to face my Lord and say I voted for somebody because they promised me this, who stands against what Your book says unequivocally is innocent blood.

Number two, ladies, it's going to fall on you. We don't carry a child. But you do. And so this is going to fall on you. Even if our Supreme Court declares it OK and even if our Congress declares it OK, you're not being forced to. So ladies you're going to run into women who find themselves in a life situation that is troubling to them and they're going to be processing. But as our culture has certainly phrased it in all sorts of ways that it's legit and OK and even wise to do. You're going to have to sit down with them and not with thunderous righteousness, you're going to have to sit down with them and gently say, "I want you to know the child in you is in God's image, He's got a plan, God's got a purpose, and if you'll let me we'll pay for the birth and we'll find parents for you." Now we have an organization in town that will do that. But if it actually becomes too taxing for them, I'll find in this church, I'll find the money and I'll find the birth parents. We must never let a lost world terminate a child when we have the chance to lovingly say to them, "There's another option. And at Central we'll provide for you."

And then one last thing. That's this table. We want to offer those who have done it absolute forgiveness in Christ. I remember in Midland a lady came in to see me. Sat down in my office and just began to weep. Married; two or three children. Just had her third child and she finished crying she looked at me and she said, "I terminated a life." And I was thinking it must have been fairly recent. But it had been 30 years earlier at the age of 16. 46. Still wounded. Still beaten up by what she'd done. Strong believer. And here's the problem you face. For those ladies that have done that. When they do have a child, the gift is overwhelming. So ladies if you're here and you've done it and you're looking at yourself in the mirror and going, "God can never forgive me." Let me tell you something. That blood covers everything. And I love the Greek word for forgiveness. It's actually the same Greek word used in John 4 when it says the lady got so excited that she forgot her water pot. He forgets it. Now there's the problem. If you decide to come forward today and you want Jesus Christ to forgive you and you walk out of this room, there's still three beings you're going to face. Even if you walk away from here forgiven, there are still three beings. Number one, you're going to have to look in the mirror. And the problem is the blood of Jesus, he forgets it but you're never going to forget what you did. And you have a second being, the enemy who's going to jump all over you about how bad you are because you terminated a life. You listen to me. If you know Christ and you remember what you did and the enemy jumps on your back, when you pray to the Holy Spirit, when you pray to the Father and you go back to Him

again to ask forgiveness for something He's already forgiven you for, because the enemy will beat you up that way, if you'll listen real closely you'll hear the Holy Spirit say when you come back to Him again and you lay out what you've done, you hear the Holy Spirit says, "I have no idea what you're talking about." That is the beauty of that table.

Let's pray.

Father, we live in a culture that does not know You and does not understand. And the enemy is being overt today. Father let us make sure we honor You, we stand for You, we vote correctly, we speak correctly, with love and compassion and clarity. And Father let us understand the depth of Your forgiveness and Your cleansing and Your redemption. Father if there's a lady in this room that came in today beaten up over that, let her know that You will forgive her. I thank You for every parent in this room who has a special needs child they adore. Thank You for that testimony they are to Genesis, Jeremiah, and Psalm, Father make us in this church driven not by our culture, but by the word Your Holy Spirit wrote. Bring that home to us today. In the name of Jesus who sets us free with You we ask that.