

# THE SANCTITY OF LIFE . . . THE INESCAPABLE ISSUE

Abortion . . . after the Fact  
*Selected Scriptures*



## LET'S BEGIN HERE

Issues are being addressed openly today that were once only whispered behind closed doors. Among them, abortion ranks near the top. Numerous individuals declare the necessity of preserving human life in the womb. Many are building bold and eloquent cases for protecting the unborn, denouncing the tragedy of abortion-on-demand, and declaring their convictions before the media as well as on the streets and in other public places. What is often overlooked, however, is the individual who has already had an abortion. Preventive counsel is readily available . . . but corrective assistance and compassionate care are frequently conspicuous by their absence. What do we say to the woman who has already gotten an abortion? How can we help the person who advised a friend or relative to abort her child? This is the flip side of a crucial issue and cannot be ignored.



## LET'S DIG DEEPER

### 1. A Desire for Understanding

As we approach the sensitive topic of abortion, we must acknowledge two things. First, Scripture is not soft on abortion. As we learned in the last message, passage after passage in God's Word affirm the sanctity of life and call Christians to action to defend helpless, unborn babies. Second, though the alarming statistics of abortion rates in America and around the world tend to make our blood boil, we must handle this issue with grace and balance. Yes, abortion does end a human life, making it murder. But God offers forgiveness to those who have gotten or encouraged an abortion. No sin is too heinous that the Lord cannot or will not extend grace. A woman who has had an abortion can receive restoration and go on to a fruitful, meaningful life.

We are all sinners, prone to wander from the Lord and from what we *know* to be true. God knows that we are frail creatures, and He offers both the power to obey and forgiveness when we don't.



## Quotable

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*God recognizes  
our sins and  
hears our  
confessions. He  
remembers we  
are made from dust.  
He is merciful.*

— Charles R. Swindoll

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### 2. General Counsel from God's Relevant Word

Scripture teaches four general facts about sin which we can apply to the issue of abortion.

- *Sin is sin and we all commit it.* The categories of sin are numerous. However we define sin, it always means missing the mark, it always has consequences, and we are all sinners (Psalm 14:2–3; Romans 3:23).
- *God is grieved but never shocked by our disobedience.* Thankfully, God remembers that we are frail and prone to wander from Him (Psalm 103:12–14). As a loving Father, God disciplines us, and during the recovery process following disobedience, He teaches us to obey (Hebrews 12:5–11).
- *Some sins incur greater consequences than others.* Some sins are private and their consequences are private. Other iniquities are public and produce more widespread pain. The consequences of abortion often include physical pain and lasting physical damage, emotional suffering, guilt, depression, and so on. We cannot commit sin and think that we will escape the consequences (Proverbs 6:27–29).
- *Recovery and return to a fruitful life is God's desire for all of us.* Just as no earthly father who disciplines a son leaves him in a perpetual state of discipline, so our heavenly Father, though He reproves us, has no interest in our living our lives under the constant cloud of guilt. God wants those who have had an abortion to receive forgiveness and restoration and live a joyful life. God's Word offers these four steps to recovery:
  1. Fully acknowledge the wrong we have done.
  2. Genuinely repent following confession.
  3. Claim the cleansing that God offers.
  4. Deliberately refuse to let anyone keep you in bondage to guilt once you have worked through this painstaking process.



#### A CLOSER LOOK

##### *David: A Case Study in God's Forgiveness*

David sinned. As king, he used his power to take advantage of Bathsheba and have her husband killed. Upon being confronted by the prophet Nathan, David humbled himself before God, calling for the grace of purification that so many of us long for after we have fallen. And while David grievously wronged Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah, ultimately the king sinned against God. Psalm 51 presents sin as an evil deed in God's sight (Psalm 51:4), as well as a condition that plagued David from birth (51:5). We see here that sin creates significant problems in our relationships and circumstances. But more than that, David's response to his failure reminds us that our sin places us in opposition to God. And when we find ourselves there, we should respond as David did: ask for grace and purification, that we may come to God with a "broken and contrite heart" (51:17).



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## LET'S LIVE IT

For those who live with the guilt and regret that follow an abortion, God offers hope. Here is some specific advice to all who live with guilt and regret:

- You cannot undo the past—don't try.
- You may not be able to cope with the present—don't quit.
- You must not waste the future—don't hide.

If you have undergone an abortion or have counseled someone to have one, will you confess and pray for the fortitude to recover and heal with the power of God?

If you have not personally experienced abortion, would you commit to praying for the healing and future ministry of those who have?



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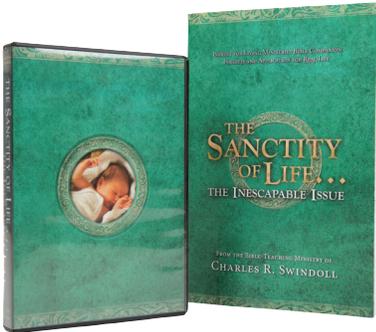
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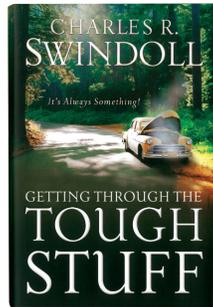
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## Tools for Digging Deeper



**The Sanctity of Life . . .  
The Inescapable Issue**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
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