

The Gospel and Culture Part 3:

Science and the Bible: The Universe and the Unborn

Goals of the Series

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern cultural topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture
- ❖ Let the Word of God be our ONLY source of authority

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever. – 1 John 2:15-17

"I believe that one reason why the Church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the Church Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." – Charles Spurgeon

The Word is My Only Source of Authority

- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT personal.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT organizational.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT intellectual.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT psychological.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is NOT experiential.
- ❖ A preacher's authority is ONLY biblical.

Goals of this Particular Night

- ❖ To have a Biblical understanding of Creation
- ❖ To make the most logical conclusion about the origins of universe and life
- ❖ To understand the proof for intelligent design
- ❖ To see how a divine Creator cares for the largest parts of creation down to the smallest cells of humanity
- ❖ To recognize the horrors of abortion, and the hope that we have as believers
- ❖ To learn how to engage in this topic as well as with people who are pro-choice

Questions/concerns/challenges

- ❖ Roughly 7% of the world (450-500 million) identify as atheists
- ❖ Evolution taught as primary viewpoint of creation
- ❖ There is a growing debate about when life begins
- ❖ "Doesn't a woman have a right to choose?"

DISCLAIMER: *This will be a general overview to help in your understand of God, the Bible, and Science. This is not by any means overall extensive. No one is asking you to completely grasp metaphysics or the molecular structures in one night or even in your lifetime. This is very general overview that I hope will grow your confidence in what you believe, and your love for the Creator.*

Let's Start with the Big Questions:

- ❖ Does God Exist?
- ❖ If so, is this God personal or impersonal?
- ❖ If personal, does God act only at the beginning of the universe or also after it within the created order?
- ❖ If God did create everything, what are the implications

The Four Viewpoints of Creation

Naturalism, Pantheism, Deism, and Theism

- ❖ Naturalism
 - Nothing exists except matter, and everything in the world is the result of strict mathematical laws of physics and chance
 - Does not believe in God
 - Views matter and energy and the laws of nature as the prime realities
 - Think of the implications:

"We are such insignificant creatures on a minor planet of a very average star in the outer suburbs of one of a hundred thousand million galaxies. So it is difficult to believe in a God that would care about us or even notice our existence" - Stephen Hawking, BBC Interview

- ❖ Pantheism
 - Believes there to be a higher power of some sort
 - An impersonal deity that is present in matter and energy as the prime reality
 - No real distinction between God and creation

- ❖ Deism
 - An agnostic worldview.
 - Believes in a personal, transcendent intelligent God who does NOT act with the created order after the initial order
 - The divine "clock-maker"
- ❖ Theism
 - A Christian worldview
 - Believes in a personal, intelligent, transcendent God who also acts within the creation.
 - God is both separate from creation, as well as active in creation

The Big Bang

"In the beginning there was an explosion...Not an explosion like those familiar on Earth, starting from a definite center and spreading out to engulf more and more of the circumambient air, but an explosion which occurred simultaneously everywhere, filling all space from the beginning with every particle of matter rushing apart from every other particle." - Nobel Prize-winning physicist Steven Weinberg, The First Three Minutes

"In three minutes, ninety-eight percent of all the matter there is or will ever be has been produced. We have a universe. It is a place of the most wondrous and gratifying possibility, and beautiful, too. And it was all done in about the time it takes to make a sandwich." - Bill Bryson, A Short History of Nearly Everything

What the Naturalist worldview must answer for:

- ❖ "Ex nihilo nihil fit" – out of nothing, nothing comes.
- ❖ The Kalam Cosmological Argument:
 - #1 - Whatever begins to exist has a cause
 - #2 - The universe began to exist.
 - Is it possible the universe is static (unchanging) and infinite?
 - Albert Einstein's Theory of Relativity didn't allow for a static, unchanging universe. Proved the universe was in action
 - Russian mathematician, Alexander Friedman and Belgium astronomer George Lemaitre predicted universe was expanding. If universe was expanding, this meant if you went backward in time, the universe would go back to single origin before which it didn't exist
 - American Astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered light coming from distant galaxies are redder than should be. This color change was result of galaxies moving away from us

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- Elements like helium cannot be created unless you have powerful enough temperatures to create them, such as ultra-powerful explosion
- #3 - Therefore, the universe has a cause.

"Suppose you suddenly hear a loud bang... and you ask me 'What made that bang' and I reply 'Nothing. It just happened.' You would not accept that"- Kai Nelson

Bottom Line: The Big Bang is a proven, scientific event that took place, that does not logically support a naturalist worldview

"The essential element in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis is the same; the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharp, at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy" - American astronomer, Robert Jastrow, God and the Astronomers

❖ What is the cause?

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 19:1-6 - "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. Their message has gone out to the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming from his home; it rejoices like an athlete running a course. It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to their other end; nothing is hidden from its heat."

The Fine-Tuned Universe

"Religion is but a desperate attempt to find an escape from the truly dreadful situation in which we find ourselves. No wonder then that many people feel the need for some belief that gives them a sense of security, and no wonder that they become very angry with people like me who say that this is illusory." - Astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle, early in his career, prior to an intense study of the fine-tuning of the universe

"A common-sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question." - Astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle, after seeing evidence for intelligent design

What the Pantheist worldview must answer for:

Fine Tuning – the discovery that many properties of the universe fall within extremely narrow and improbable ranges that turn out to be absolutely necessary for complex forms of life, or even complex chemistry, and thus any conceivable form of life, to exist. If any of these properties were altered ever so slightly, complex chemistry and life would not exist.

❖ Example of fine-tuning

- If mass of neutrons were increased by one part in seven hundred, nuclear fusion in stars would stop and there would be no energy source for life
- If electromagnetic force were slightly stronger or weaker, life would be impossible
- Carbon and oxygen are produced a certain ratio. If the resonance of carbon is tinkered even the slightest, we would not have materials need to build life
- For the universe to exist as it does requires that hydrogen be converted to helium in a precise but comparatively stately manner, specifically, in a way that converts seven one-thousandths of its mass to energy. Lower that value very slightly –from 0.007 percent to 0.006 percent, and no transformation could take place: the universe would consist of hydrogen and nothing else. Raise the value very slightly to 0.008 percent– and bonding would be so wildly prolific that the hydrogen would long since have been exhausted. In either case, with the slightest tweaking of the numbers the universe as we know and need it would not be here.
- We have to exist in a spiral galaxy (like the Milky Way) and not an elliptical or irregular galaxy. The galaxy's shape helps provide a safe zone, away from supernovas, and black holes
- Sustainable life requires formation of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, calcium, iron, magnesium, silicone, and sulfur, which each come with complicated recipes.
- Jupiter's size acts as a shield to protect us from too many comet impacts
- If we were 5% closer to the sun, water would evaporate
- If we were 5% farther from the sun, we would freeze to death
 - If the planet did not rotate, water on one side would melt and the other side would eventually freeze
- If the sun were smaller, we would have to be closer to be sustained by its luminosity
 - However, if we were any closer, we would be danger of destruction of the ozone layer caused by "sun flares"
- The axis of the earth is stabilized by our one moon. Otherwise, our seasons would much more extreme, making life unsustainable.
- If the moon was any larger, the tides would be too strong, slowing down the rotation of the earth, resulting in rapid temperature shifts

Conclusion: The possibility of achieving such a fine tuning of this universe has been calculated as 1 in 10 to the 10th power raised again to the 123rd power. In other words. You take 10 to the 10th power ($10 \times 10 \times 10 \dots$ etc.). Which is 10 Billion. Then you times 10 Billion by itself 123 times, and then you'll have the odds of this fine tuning.

- For perspective, some physicists have estimated there are only 10 to the 80th power particles in the entire universe.

❖ How is the universe designed so well?

Job 38:4-7 - Where were you when I established the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? What supports its foundations? Or who laid its cornerstone while the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Bottom Line: Our world is so uniquely designed that it cannot be randomized, which does not support a pantheist worldview.

The Origin of the Species

"The short answer is we don't know how life originated on this planet. There have been some possible roads, but we remain in substantial ignorance" – Andy Knoll, Harvard Biologist

"Scientists have become increasingly, and in some quarters uncomfortably, aware that there is at least one appearance of design in biology that has not been explained by natural selection or any other purely naturalistic mechanism: the information present in even the simplest living cells." – Dr. Stephen Meyer, Director of the Center for Science and Culture at Discovery Institute

"Human DNA contains more organized information than the Encyclopedia Britannica. If the full text of the encyclopedia were to arrive in computer code from outer space, most people would regard this as proof of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. But when seen in nature, it is explained as the workings of random forces." – George Sim Johnson

What the Deist worldview must answer for:

Proteins – Highly complex substance found in all living organisms

Amino acids – the building blocks of proteins

DNA – carrier of genetic information

"Prebiotic Soup" - All the right chemicals that supposedly existed on Earth prior to life. Therefore, after the creation of the world, random chance, natural selection, and evolution took place to form life as we know it today

❖ The issues:

- If "prebiotic soup" existed, there would have been abundant of amino acids, which means an abundance of nitrogen (amino acids are nitrogenous). However, when examining earliest sediments of the Earth, the nitrogen content is relatively low
- The proper structure of a protein, called a "tertiary structure," is necessary to perform its function. A structure is not formed until you have at least 75 amino acids. This means you need the right bonds of amino acids, which come in both "right-handed" and "left-handed" bonds." And you need the amino acids to link in perfect, specified sequence. Forming one protein molecule by chance would be 1 in 10 to the 125th power. One complex cell has 300-500 protein molecules
- In order for evolution to take place, there must be a self-replicating organism. A self-replicating organism can't exist unless it has the information necessary in the DNA. Where does this information come from?
- Each individual base in DNA is chemically bonded to the sugar-phosphate backbone of the molecule. BUT, there's no attraction or bonding between individual bases themselves. There is nothing chemically that is forcing each particular sequence. And each sequence is arranged in extremely complex order.

❖ DNA Information Illustration:

KHJjhbi72h jf743iuY9 38d0Jkjf 8ie (*random assortment of info*)

ababababababababababababababab (*repeated sequence*)

In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth (*specific complexity*)

- ❖ Functional DNA and proteins are communicating informational messages, not just random mere complexity or redundant orders.
- ❖ Where did we get such specific and complex building blocks in life?

Psalm 139:13-14 - For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.

Bottom line: A deistic worldview fails to explain the new bursts of biological information found in creation. Only a theistic worldview explains the activity of an intelligent designer both before and after the beginning of the universe

Nehemiah 9:6 - You, Lord, are the only God. You created the heavens, the highest heavens with all their stars, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and all the stars of heaven worship you.

- ❖ What are the implications?
 - We are not put here randomly. We have purpose
 - We are not just space dust that has evolved. We have meaning
 - There is a Creator. And He has revealed Himself to us
 - Therefore, we are accountable to this Creator
 - And, as He has revealed to us, this Creator loves His creation
 - And the pinnacle of this incredible, vast universe: human life

Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image; He created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.

Genesis 1:31 - God saw all that he had made, and it was very good indeed

Psalms 8:3-5 - When I observe your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you set in place, what is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him? You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor.

The Unborn

- ❖ According to the Planned Parenthood website (which anyone can access), they have performed over 354,000 abortions last year alone.
- ❖ Approximately over 50 million abortions occur worldwide every year
- ❖ In the United States alone, over 623,000 occurs every year
 - Over 1,700 a day
 - Just over one every minute
- ❖ Overall, 1 in 4 women in the U.S. will have an abortion by the time they're 45 years old, according to Planned Parenthood's website

How Planned Parenthood describes abortion:

- ❖ "Abortion is very common, and people have abortions for many different reasons. Only you know what's best for you"
- ❖ "Everyone has their own unique and valid reasons for having an abortion. Some of the many different reasons people decide to end a pregnancy include:
 - They want to be the best parent possible to the kids they already have.
 - They're not ready to be a parent yet.
 - It's not a good time in their life to have a baby.
 - They want to finish school, focus on work, or achieve other goals before having a baby.

- They're not in a relationship with someone they want to have a baby with.
 - They're in an abusive relationship or were sexually assaulted.
 - The pregnancy is dangerous or bad for their health.
 - The fetus won't survive the pregnancy or will suffer after birth.
 - They just don't want to be a parent.
 - "Decisions about your pregnancy are deeply personal. You hold the power to make decisions that are best for you in order to stay on your own path to a healthy and meaningful life."
- ❖ Two different types of abortion:
- In clinic – "A doctor or nurse uses medical instruments and gentle suction to remove the pregnancy." Usually performed 14-16 weeks of pregnancy "
 - Medication – "You take pills that end your pregnancy and make your uterus expel the pregnancy tissue (like an early miscarriage). Can be taken up to 11 weeks"

A Biblical Understanding:

- ❖ God alone is the Creator of all life

Isaiah 40:28 – "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding."

- ❖ God alone is the giver of all life

Job 33:4 – The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

- ❖ God alone is the taker of all life

Job 1:21 – Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 32:39 – See now that I alone am he; there is no God but me. I bring death and I give life; I wound and I heal. No one can rescue anyone from my power.

- ❖ Animals may be killed for human sustenance, but human beings may not murder other human beings

Genesis 9:6 – Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.

- ❖ In the Old Testament period, Ancient Near East cultures practiced the killing of unborn and infants, which God's people were not to participate in

Leviticus 18:21 – “You are not to sacrifice any of your children in the fire to Molech. Do not profane the name of your God; I am the Lord.

- ❖ The prophets of God spoke strongly against any such practice

Isaiah 57:4-5 – Isn't it you, you rebellious children, you offspring of liars, who burn with lust among the oaks, under every green tree, who slaughter children in the wadis below the clefts of the rocks?

Jeremiah 7:31 – They have built the high places of Topheth in Ben Hinnom Valley in order to burn their sons and daughters in the fire, a thing I did not command; I never entertained the thought

- ❖ During the time of the Kings of Israel, King David believed in human life at conception

Psalms 51:5 – Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

- ❖ In later years, the Lord brings judgement on the Ammonites for this sin

Amos 1:13 – The Lord says: I will not relent from punishing the Ammonites for three crimes, even four, because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead in order to enlarge their territory.

Who is inside the womb?

- ❖ Inside a woman's womb, there can be found a person that God is forming

Psalms 139:13-16 – For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

- We just remember that the Psalmist wrote this before we even had a scientific understanding of what was happening in the womb.

Job 31:15 – Did not the one who made me in the womb also make them? Did not the same God form us both in the womb?

- ❖ Inside a woman's womb, there can be found a person that God knows

Jeremiah 1:5 - I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

- ❖ Inside a woman's womb, there can be found a person that God relates to

Psalms 22:9-10 - It was you who brought me out of the womb, making me secure at my mother's breast. I was given over to you at birth; you have been my God from my mother's womb.

- ❖ Inside a woman's womb, there can be found a person that God calls

Galatians 1:15-16 - But when God, who from my mother's womb set me apart and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles

- ❖ Inside a woman's womb, there can be found a person that God names

Isaiah 49:1 - Coasts and islands, listen to me; distant peoples, pay attention. The Lord called me before I was born. He named me while I was in my mother's womb.

- ❖ Inside a woman's womb, there can be found a person that God anoints!

Luke 1:15 - For he will be great in the sight of the Lord and will never drink wine or beer. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb

Luke 1:44 - For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped for joy inside me.

Bottom Line: Abortion then becomes an assault on God's glorious work in creation

Psalms 104:24 - How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

- ❖ If the unborn is not human, no justification for abortion is necessary
 - No different than stepping on a bug (life that does not have same human value)
 - No different than removing a cancerous cell (clump of cells that does not belong)
 - No different than getting a tattoo (harming cells in your body for personal pleasure)
- ❖ If the unborn is human, no justification for abortion is adequate
 - All abortions are murder of a child

"Think of a little girl named Rachel. Rachel is two months old, but she is still six weeks away from being a full-term baby. She was born prematurely at 24 weeks, in the middle of her mother's second trimester. On the day of her birth Rachel weighed one pound, nine ounces, but dropped to just under a pound soon after. She was so small she could rest in the palm of her daddy's hand. She was a tiny, living, human person.

Heroic measures were taken to save this child's life. Why? Because we have an obligation to protect, nurture, and care for other humans who would die without our help—especially little children. Rachel was a vulnerable and valuable human being.

But get this ... If a doctor came into the hospital room and, instead of caring for Rachel, took the life of this little girl as she lay quietly nursing at her mother's breast, it would be homicide. However, if this same little girl—the very same Rachel—was inches away resting inside her mother's womb, she could be legally killed by abortion." -

Gregory Koukl

❖ Though the unborn is visibly hidden from man, he/she is never hidden from God.

Job 10:8-13 - "Your hands shaped me and formed me. Will you now turn and destroy me? Please remember that you formed me like clay. Will you now return me to dust? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and wove me together with bones and tendons. You gave me life and faithful love, and your care has guarded my life. "Yet you concealed these thoughts in your heart; I know that this was your hidden plan

❖ God will judge each and every sin of abortion

Romans 2:6-8 - He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness.

➤ This includes:

- Mothers who have aborted babies.
- Fathers who have encouraged abortion.
- Family members who have supported abortion.
- Doctors who have performed abortion.
- Christians who have done nothing/supported abortion

James 4:17 - If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

- Political leaders who have permitted abortion
 - Government is given by God for the good of people, to legislate morality

Romans 13:1-4 - Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God. So

then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.

- "But I thought the Government doesn't have a right to take away my rights to choose."
 - ◆ That's exactly what they should do. They take away our rights to choose murder or choose kidnapping. The government should absolutely limit our rights to be pro-choice in those arenas

Popular Myths Surrounding Abortion:

#1 – *"It's just a clump of cells. It's not actually a person"*

- Every cell in the womb is being formed by God

Psalm 139:13-16 – For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

- Week 1 – Child begins to form in wound
- Week 3 – The heart begins to beat
- Week 4 – Brain, backbone, and spiral cord begin to form
- Week 5 – Eyes, liver, and kidneys begin to form
- Week 6 – Brain waves can now be detected and recorded
- Week 7 – Movements of arms and legs detected
- Week 8 – Nose and taste buds develop
- Week 9 – Gender begins to form, including many of bodily organs. Baby can suck his/her thumb
- Week 10 – Vocal chords and lips completely formed
- Week 11 – Inhaling and exhaling easily noticeable
 - **Keep in mind, many abortions happen in week 12-14**

#2 – *"My body. My choice."*

- Humans are not given full autonomy currently in every aspect of life
- We don't have the freedom to simply eliminate toddlers, or teenagers for that matter, who are inconvenient to us. No woman has the freedom to kill her child if it's already born

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- As Christians, we are commanded frequently in Scripture to make decisions and choices that best serve others

John 15:13 - No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends

Philippians 2:4 - Everyone should look not to his own interests, but rather to the interests of others

Galatians 6:2 - Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ

1 Corinthians 10:24 - No one is to seek his own good, but the good of the other person

#3 - "But making abortions illegal forces women into back alleys with coat hangers."

- Well, if it's dangerous to kill a person, should we make it easier for them?
- If it's dangerous to rob a bank, do we make it more convenient for bank robbers?

#4 - "More children will create a drain on the economy."

- When human beings get expensive, shall we kill them?

#5 - "The couple is not ready to be parents/They can't afford a child/They want to focus on other goals before having a baby"

- Abortion is murder

Genesis 9:6 - Whoever sheds human blood, by humans his blood will be shed, for God made humans in his image.

- There are resources available to help

"This sprawling network of...faith-based nonprofits [crisis pregnancy centers] now outnumbers abortions clinics 3 to 1" - Time Magazine, June 22, 2022

#6 - "The child was conceived in rape"

- Should a child be punished for the sin of the father?

Deuteronomy 24:16 - "Fathers are not to be put to death for their children, and children are not to be put to death for their fathers; each person will be put to death for his own sin."

- Would you murder a child outside the womb that was conceived by rape?
- So how do we treat this child?
 - With love and mercy
- What about the emotional toll this has on a woman? Don't you care?
 - If the rapist was caught, would we allow the woman to murder the rapist in order to have emotional relief? Absolutely not. Then why would we allow her to murder her innocent child to have emotional relief?
- The message of the gospel:
 - God takes unimaginable evil and turns it into ultimate good

Acts 2:22-24 - "Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him, just as you yourselves know. Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him. God raised him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by death.

#7 – "The child has special needs"

- All of God's works are wonderful

John 9:1-3 - As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," Jesus answered. "This came about so that God's works might be displayed in him.

- Even (or especially) in the midst of difficulty

Genesis 50:20 - You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result

- Human worth is never determined by abilities
- Minimizing the suffering of the baby is not grounds for killing him/her
- Ministering to our child with disabilities becomes our ministry

Luke 14:12-14 - He also said to the one who had invited him, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors, because they might invite you back, and you would be repaid. On the contrary, when you host a banquet, invite those who are poor, maimed, lame, or blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

#8 – "The mother's life is at risk"

- Seek professional medical diagnosis (hopefully Christian)
- There is a large difference between a previable separation (early birth due to surgery and medical procedures) and an elective abortion

- One produces, hopefully, a live baby and a live mother. The produces a dead baby

"There is not a single maternal or fetal condition that necessitates that an abortion procedure be performed, whose purpose is directly and intentionally to end the life of a preborn child... early delivery is always an option in order to protect the mother if and when her health or life is truly in jeopardy." – Dr. Kendra Kolb, practicing Neonatologist, certified by American Board of Pediatrics in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine

#9 – "I'm pro-life but I don't feel I should tell anyone how to live their life. The issue is too complex and sensitive"

- Millions of babies are murdered every year. If we stay silent, we are no different than those in Nazi Germany who stayed silent on concentration camps. Or the countless men and women who stayed silent about slavery.

Proverbs 24:10-12 – If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited. Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter. If you say, "But we didn't know about this," won't he who weighs hearts consider it? Won't he who protects your life know? Won't he repay a person according to his work?

#10 – "Jesus and the New Testament never talk about abortion"

- Jesus cherishes children

Matthew 19:13-15 – Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, "Leave the little children alone, and don't try to keep them from coming to me, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." After placing his hands on them, he went on from there.

- Luke records the fetal personhood of John the Baptist in the womb

Luke 1:44 – For you see, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped for joy inside me.

Is there any hope for those that have sinned against God and His creation?

"All saints have a past. All sinners have a future." - Unknown

❖ God is the Savior of all sinners

Titus 3:3-7 - For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us –not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy– through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.

❖ God forgives all sinners entirely

Psalms 103:11-12 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

❖ God heals all spiritual and emotional wounds

Luke 7:47-50 - Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

❖ God restores all sinners fully

Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

❖ God redeems all sinners fully

Romans 8:28 - We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

- Christ is greater than any and all sin, and He is redeeming sinners to this very day, and radically transforming desires making people like you and I into the image of Christ. To God be the glory
- Because of this confidence in Christ, the Church should be strong advocates for the rights of unborn children

Ephesians 5:6-11 – Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God’s wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things. Therefore, do not become their partners. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light— for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth— testing what is pleasing to the Lord. Don’t participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Practical Takeaways

❖ How should we respond as believers?

- Learn the facts about abortion
- See the pictures of abortion
- Listen to the victims of abortion
- If you are someone who has had an abortion/thinking of having an abortion
 - Remember who are you in Christ

Isaiah 53:5-6 – But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the Lord has punished him for the iniquity of us all.

- Share your burdens from the past with sisters and/or brothers in Christ

James 5:16 – Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

- Share your struggles in the present with sisters and/or brothers in Christ

❖ As believers, we are to speak up about abortion

- To God in prayer
- To believers and non-believers
- To our government

❖ REMEMBER: Our enemy is **NOT** pro-choice advocates, people considering abortion, women who have had abortions, etc....

Ephesians 6:12 – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

- The hearts and minds of pro-choice advocates will not be changed by logic and science-based arguments alone
 - They need the Gospel
 - They need the love of Christ

If you have any questions throughout the night, please text 310-710-3028

- They need a transformed heart and mind
 - Relying on science and statistics will cause us to fail
 - This is a spiritual battle and must be fought accordingly
- ❖ Serve
 - Giving of time and resources to pro-life causes and ministries
 - Serving unwed, under-age, or single mothers
 - Volunteer at pregnancy centers
 - Consider adopting unwanted children
 - Care for the unborn. Care for the born

Psalm 82:3-4 - Provide justice for the needy and the fatherless; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked."

James 1:22-25 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Recommended Reading

For further study on the topics covered in tonight's sessions, see the resources listed below. Please note, however, that Hope Chapel Youth ministry does not endorse everything contained in these resources. As always, we urge you to examine these resources and the topics covered in this study in light of the truths of God's Word.

Science and the Evidence for a Creator

- ❖ *The Reason for God* – Tim Keller
- ❖ *The Return of the God Hypothesis* – Stephen C. Meyer
- ❖ *The Case for a Creator* – Lee Strobel
- ❖ *Theistic Evolution: A Scientific, Philosophical and Theological Critique* – Various Authors

Abortion

- ❖ *Choose Life* – Jeanette Pifer & John K. Goodrich
- ❖ *Why Pro-Life?* – Randy Alcorn
- ❖ *What the Bible Says about Abortion, Euthanasia, and End-Of-Life Medical Decisions* – Wayne Grudem