

// HOW YOU CAN RESPOND

// PRAY

- Pray for the women and girls who are considering abortion. Pray that they will choose life, even amid difficult circumstances.
- Pray for the millions of women and men who are living with the trauma of having chosen abortion in the past. Pray that they would know that God is able and willing to forgive them.
- Pray for the staff of pregnancy care centers as they minister to those who are pregnant and frightened or experiencing post-abortion trauma.

// ACT

- Read what the Bible says about human life issues at erlc.com/life.
- Contact a pregnancy resource center to determine how you can assist their ministry. Opportunities range from answering the telephone to mentoring an expectant mother.
- Contact your elected representatives and ask them to for vote for life at every opportunity.
- Celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in your church. Educate and encourage your congregation in the ways they can stand up for the rights of the unborn, the disabled, and the elderly.

// BE TRANSFORMED

God considers every human, born or pre-born, as a precious gift from Him (Ps. 127:3-4). We must value them in the same way God does.

// HOW CAN YOU KNOW JESUS CHRIST?

- Realize you are not in control of your future. Admit that you are a sinner. (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:23).
- Understand that God loves us, even in our sinful state (Rom. 5:8). He desires we turn away from our sin (Mark 1:15).
- Believe that Jesus is Lord (Rom. 10:9-10, 13). Eternal life is a gift; we cannot earn it (Eph. 2:8-9). Know that once you trust in Jesus, nothing can break your relationship with Him (John 10:28-29).

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impact

Living Your Values Out Loud



**“We are all the
work of Your hands.”**

(Isaiah 64:8)

PUSHING BACK THE CULTURE OF DEATH

The blood of literally millions of unborn children cries out to us from the ground, their lives taken, most likely, because they were viewed as too expensive or too intrusive.

The seeds of the culture of death were sown centuries ago, when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience before God—an event tragically crowned by Cain's murder of his brother Abel. The passage of time has not abated sin's deadly effects.

A culture that denies and defies God and that views His Word as a dated collection of legends with little authority is a culture shredded by violence and sensuality.

While the society in which we live tilts toward a perspective that regards humans as enhanced primates, we serve a God who tells us clearly in His Word that we are made in His image. Likening God to a potter, a vocation that

was common in those days, the Prophet Isaiah wrote, "We are all the work of [His] hands" (Isaiah 64:8).

Human life loses its value when life is not viewed as a gift from God, when we fail to recognize that humans are created in the image of God, and when we forget that mankind is different in kind and type than every creature in the animal kingdom.

Abortion is not a modern invention. This God-dishonoring cruelty was practiced in pagan civilizations, such as the Roman Empire and ancient Greece.

While the spread of Christianity somewhat blunted this depraved practice by proclaiming an elevated view of human life, we still contend with this procedure

that takes an innocent life to satisfy the need of another, much older life.

Those enlightened by the Truth of the Gospel should view the taking of innocent life, including the preborn, much differently than those who remain in darkness.

The blood of literally millions of unborn children cries out to us from the ground, their lives taken, most likely, because they were viewed as too expensive or too intrusive. These children had no spokesman or advocate, but were viewed as expendable.

If those of us who recognize God as the author of life are silent, then the ones who are increasingly threatened in a culture of death have little hope.

ABORTION BY THE NUMBERS

In 2005, the latest year for which statistics are available, the number of abortions in the U.S. declined to 1.2 million, 25% below the all-time high of 1.6 million in 1990. Despite this decline, slightly more than one in five pregnancies ended in abortion in 2005, giving the U.S. one of the highest abortion rates in the developed world.

WHO HAS ABORTIONS?

- **56%** of women having abortions are in their 20s
- **61%** have one or more children
- **67%** have never married
- **57%** are economically disadvantaged
- **88%** live in a metropolitan area
- **78%** report a religious affiliation, including **13%** who identify themselves as "born again" or evangelical

The Guttmacher Institute, guttmacher.org

WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD ABORTIONS SHOW SYMPTOMS THAT FIT THE MODEL OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.



Guilt	92.6%
Depression	88.2%
Regret	84.8%
Grief	84.7%
Loneliness	83.6%
Loss of self-esteem	82.3%
Anxiety	81.4%
Anger	80.8%

National Right to Life Committee, nrlc.org

THE LINGERING EFFECTS OF ABORTION