

created in the image of GOD

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INTRO SLIDE



[CLICK] The scripture teaches human life is sacred. The intrinsic value of human life comes from the creator of life, God. The fundamental right to life recognizes that we are created in the image of God and are called to defend, protect and value innocent human life.

[CLICK] “For you formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13



[CLICK] Recognition of the sanctity of human life is a foundation which provides guidance regarding how we treat others.

[CLICK] Thirty-seven years ago, our foundation cracked, some human life was identified as dispensable. Unborn children, being knit together in their mothers’ wombs, are denied life.



[CLICK] On January 22, 1973, two decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in all 50 states through all nine months of pregnancy.



[CLICK] The principal decision, Roe v. Wade, repealed all state laws prohibiting abortion.¹

[CLICK] The companion case, Doe v. Bolton, extended the right to abortion to the entire nine months of pregnancy.² On that day, abortion became a national response to the challenge of untimely human life.



[CLICK] In January 1973, seven men in black robes turned their backs on women and families in need and ruled that not all human life is sacred.



[CLICK] While Roe v. Wade made abortion legal
 [CLICK] in all 50 states,
 [CLICK] it allowed that abortions could be restricted by states during the last three months of pregnancy unless the life or health of the mother was at stake.



[CLICK] However, in Doe v. Bolton, the U.S. Supreme Court [CLICK] defined "health" in very broad terms to include "all factors -
 [CLICK] physical,
 [CLICK] emotional,
 [CLICK] psychological,
 [CLICK] familial,
 [CLICK] and the woman's age - relevant to the well-being of the patient."



[CLICK] Doe defines "health" in such a way that "health" with regards to abortion
 [CLICK] can be for any reason a woman can think up and to which an abortionist will agree. Because of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, abortions may be and are performed through all nine months of pregnancy.

[CLICK] Thirty-seven years ago, our foundation cracked, some human life was identified as dispensable. Unborn children, being knit together in their mothers' wombs, are denied life.



[CLICK] The aftermath of January 22, 1973, is not a story of compassion and courage, but one of apathy disguised as "choice." Instead of reaching out to those in need after January 22, 1973, we followed the example of the U.S. Supreme Court. We, too, at times turned our backs on women and families leaving abortion as an only "choice."



[CLICK] One natural question is: Why? Why do so many women have abortions?



[CLICK] According to Family Planning Perspectives, the first reason given by women who have had an abortion is because

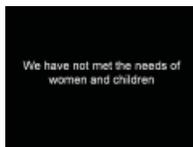
[CLICK] of convenience. The birth of the child would upset a school or work schedule.

[CLICK] The second reason women gave for having an abortion included financial concerns.

[CLICK] Having relationship problems and being young and unmarried were also reasons for having an abortion.



[CLICK] Too many women express regret after an abortion and say they felt “all alone” when they were pregnant and needing to make decisions about the future.



[CLICK] Abortion continues to be a reflection that we have not met the needs of women or children. The topic of abortion is viewed as taboo by some. This creates a void, our respect for “choice” has quieted the commonsense voice speaking up for the unborn. That voice, your voice, is desperately needed to repair the sanctity of life foundation.



[CLICK] Since January 22, 1973, an estimated

[CLICK] 50 million unborn American children have been denied the right to life.

[CLICK] Now about 1.2 million unborn children are denied life each year because of abortion.

Thirty-seven years ago, our foundation cracked, some human life was identified as dispensable. Unborn children, being knit together in their mothers' wombs, are denied life.

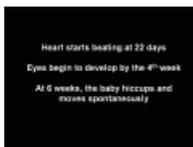


[CLICK] It is time to
 [CLICK] repair the foundation
 [CLICK] and to recognize that all human life is sacred.

“For you formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13



[CLICK] While the Psalmist considered a mother’s womb to be a secret place, modern technology and the science of embryology have provided us the amazing ability to uncover the miraculous developments of an unborn child.



[CLICK] You might have heard before that the heart of an unborn children starts beating 22 days after conception,
 [CLICK] but did you know the eyes begin to develop in the 4th week?
 [CLICK] Only six weeks after conception, the child begins to hiccup and move spontaneously.



[CLICK] The word “completeness” properly describes the second month of our lives before birth. “In a single month, the hint of a heart becomes a heart, the shadow of an eye becomes an eye . . . Four ridges are sculpted into a human face.³” Life unfolds and it is magnificent. Each person is a masterpiece which has never been, nor ever will be, replicated.

From the moment of conception, a new human life has begun, growing in the way that each of us grew, appearing as each one of us appeared. The story of life is an exceptional tale which is too often ended far too early.



[CLICK] Today is a new day.
 [CLICK] “This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

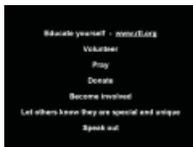
To repair the foundation which recognizes that all human life is sacred, we must accept all human life. His life is sacred, her life is sacred and your life is sacred. You were knit together in your mother's womb to reflect God. You were created in the image of God. You are sacred!

The past which cracked the foundation of the sanctity of life cannot be changed. But today we can live a life filled with hope and joy for tomorrow and work to fill in those cracks.

Allow your actions to repair the sanctity of human life foundation and if needed your words.

Too often the words we speak can seem empty to the person who hears. Let your actions speak for you. Pray for the leading of the Lord.

Should you . . .



[CLICK] educate yourself on life issues. A good place to find information is at Right to Life of Michigan's website: www.rtl.org,

[CLICK] volunteer at a pregnancy center

[CLICK] pray for those in the abortion industry and for mothers experiencing an unplanned pregnancy,

[CLICK] donate diapers to a resource center,

[CLICK] become involved with the local Right to Life of Michigan group

[CLICK] tell the children in your life that they are special and unique

[CLICK] or speak out on life issues formally or informally. And the list goes on . . .

“This is the day which the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24



[CLICK] Decide today
 [CLICK] to defend
 [CLICK] protect and
 [CLICK] value
 [CLICK] innocent human life.



[CLICK] May our decisions be grounded in the fact that all are created in the image of God.

FOOTNOTES:

- ¹ Cornell University Law School. Supreme Court Decisions. Obtained November 20, 2008, http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0410_0113_ZS.html
- ² Cornell University Law School. Supreme Court Decisions. Obtained November 20, 2008, http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0410_0179_ZS.html
- ³ Alexander, T.; & Werth, B. (2002) From Conception to Birth a Life Unfolds. DoubleDay, NY.