

## **POLICY POSITION ON ABORTION**

The position of Mount Carmel Christian Church (**MCCC**) regarding the issue of abortion is that human life begins at conception, and that voluntary abortion takes the life of an innocent person. All sin, even murder, can be forgiven because of the atoning death of Jesus Christ, so our message to those who have had abortions is one that emphasizes the seriousness of sin AND the availability of God's grace to all people.

We have come to the conclusion that life begins at conception through our study of God's Word, the Bible. The Old Testament legislated that if two fighting men hit a pregnant woman and caused a miscarriage, the punishment was "life for life" (Exodus 21:22-25). David wrote in Psalm 139, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Psalm 139:13-16). The baby in Elizabeth's womb (John the Baptist) "leaped for joy" when Elizabeth saw Mary and heard the good news that Mary would bear the Christ child (Luke 1:44). The Bible repeatedly emphasizes that we are human and have a human soul even before the time of birth.

Scientific discoveries confirm the truth of God's Word. We know that an embryo is equipped from conception to become a fully formed human being. Something inexplicable – almost miraculous – occurs at conception; the egg and sperm combine and a completely new being exists – a being which only needs the right environment to become a fully formed human being. We can be confident that life truly begins at conception and that abortion takes the life of a human being.

The Bible teaches that sex is to be reserved for marriage because of the intimacy of the sexual relationship and the prospect that a child will result. Scripture and experience both teach that the healthiest environment for raising a child is a loving, two-parent home. A significant majority of abortions take place among unmarried women. A direct correlation exists between sexual promiscuity and abortion. Married couples must honor and accept responsibility for raising and supporting children that are born as a result of their sexual union. Children are intended to be a blessing from God to a loving husband and wife. The only birth control method with 100% surety is abstinence.

Even so, when an unmarried person becomes pregnant, God's grace can still cover that sin and bring good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). The unmarried parents may decide they are mature enough to care for the child, get married and raise the child together. Grandparents may step in to help. And adoption is often a difficult but loving option for these children. Hundreds of thousands of married couples are on adoption waiting lists who would love to adopt a baby that someone else was unable to care for.

Mount Carmel Christian Church attempts to respond to the abortion issue with both truth and love. It is our conviction that the church should serve as a conscience in the community, speaking out about moral issues from a biblical perspective. We are convinced that abortion on demand should not have been legalized and

that our communities have suffered because of poor judicial decisions. However, we also acknowledge that repairing the damage that has been done may require complex political maneuvers that could sap our energy and take away from our primary mission. The best and perhaps fastest way to stop abortions is not through legislation but by winning people to Jesus Christ and seeing Him change people one heart at a time.

In addition to speaking out about legislative issues, we at MCCC feel a strong call to minister to those who find themselves dealing with a crisis pregnancy. Therefore, we support, both through financial contributions and through volunteer efforts, a local crisis pregnancy ministry. Crisis centers of this type offer pregnancy tests, ultrasound, maternity clothing, counseling and care. Not only do these centers provide an alternative to abortion, but they also give ongoing support and encouragement to those in need.

**Approved by the elders: 06 / 13 / 2016**