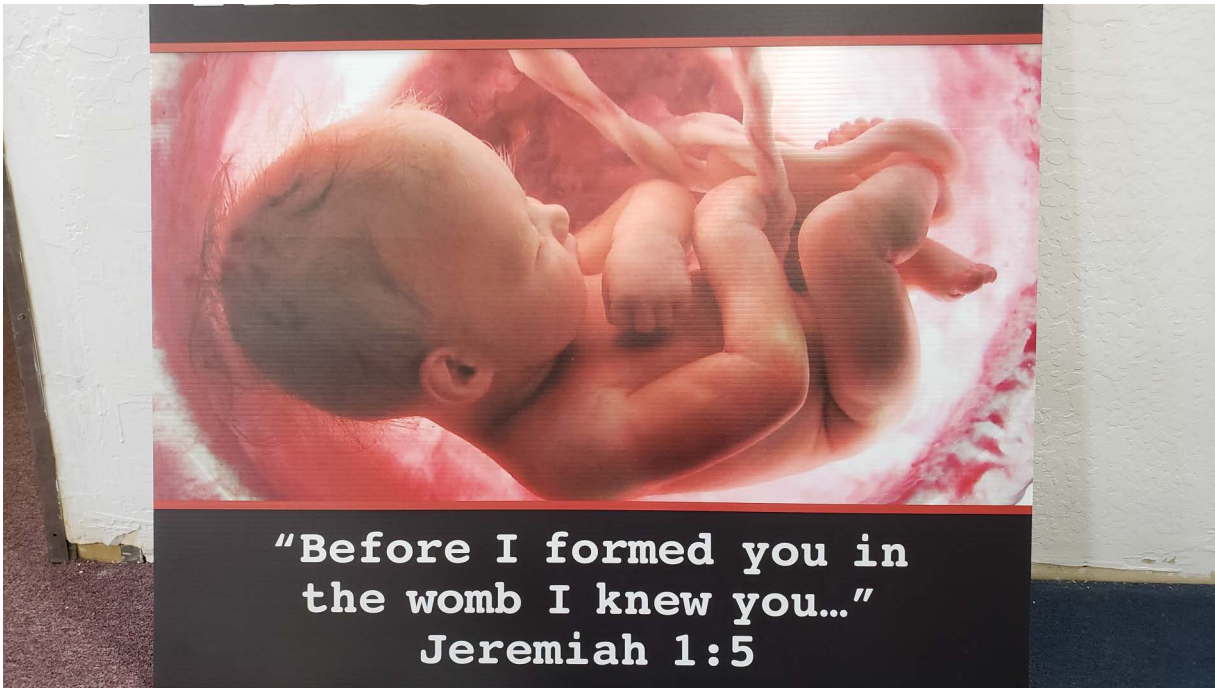


Our Convictions Regarding Life



We believe all people are created in God's image (*Imago Dei*) and that human life begins at fertilization. From the moment of fertilization until natural death, every human life is sacred (Gen. 1:26-27; Psa. 139:13-16). Human rights of life protection begin in the womb. These rights are inviolable. Person-hood begins in the womb (Luke 1:24-56). Abortion is murder and violates the Law of God (Exo. 20:13) and the law of nature. Abortion can never be an option in any situation because it can never be acceptable to murder an innocent and defenseless person. However, abortion in distinction from miscarriage, is the intentional killing of an unborn child between conception and birth.

Those who purport that abortion is solely a women's right – in relation to health and so-called reproductive justice, pervert truth and promote evil. A baby in the mother's womb is a separate but dependent new life with its own chromosomal pattern and at no stage of development can this human life be considered as an appendage or part of the mother's body.

The church has spoken clearly against abortion from the first century (Tertullian, *Apology* 9; *Didache* 2,2; *Epistle of Barnabas* 19, 5; John Chrysostom, *Homily* 24; Augustine, *Sermon* 126). This teaching is consistent throughout the centuries and cannot be changed. The inalienable rights of the person must be recognized by and respected by the civil and political society. Nations and laws that promote legalized abortion are depriving an entire category of people basic human rights before the law. Therefore, abortion is a crime against humanity.

Abortion is not the unforgivable sin. The Bible clearly teaches that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Yet redemption and forgiveness can be found by all who come to Jesus Christ by confession and repenting of one's sin and trusting in Him alone for salvation (John 14:6).