

## Message Notes

On life, culture, and the gospel

### Summer Sermon series:

*Hey! I have a question!*

### Today's Question:

*How should Christians engage the topic of abortion?*

Within HCC exist a rich diversity of perspectives and opinions

God is the Creator of Life

Genesis 1:1, 26-27, Job 31:35, Psalm 71:6, Psalm 139:13-15, John 1:9-13

God's creating >> Our understanding

Ecclesiastes 11:5, Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:16, 1 Samuel 1:5-7a

Scripture equates "baby in the womb" to "baby"

Luke 1:41, 44, 2:12, 16, Exodus 21:22-25

God upholds a culture of life, but we often don't

Genesis 9:5-7, Romans 1:18-20, 25

Where does this leave us?

What HCC believes about the realities of abortion

What HCC believes about that nature of sin and grace

How HCC wants to engage this more broadly - in workspaces, classrooms, communities, and culture

**Gospel Application** - *Will we, as a church, foster a culture of life? And will we be a safe house for any and every person in need of help?*

## Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

### Genesis 1:1, 26-27

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### John 1:9-13

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

### Ecclesiastes 11:5

5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

### Psalm 139:16

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

### Luke 1:41, 44

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit...44 "As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

### Luke 2:12, 16

12 "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger"...16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

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The image features a vibrant coral background with diagonal teal lines. A large teal speech bubble is centered, containing the text 'HEY! I HAVE A QUESTION!' in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below the main text, 'Summer Sermon Series' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

**HEY!  
I HAVE A  
QUESTION!**

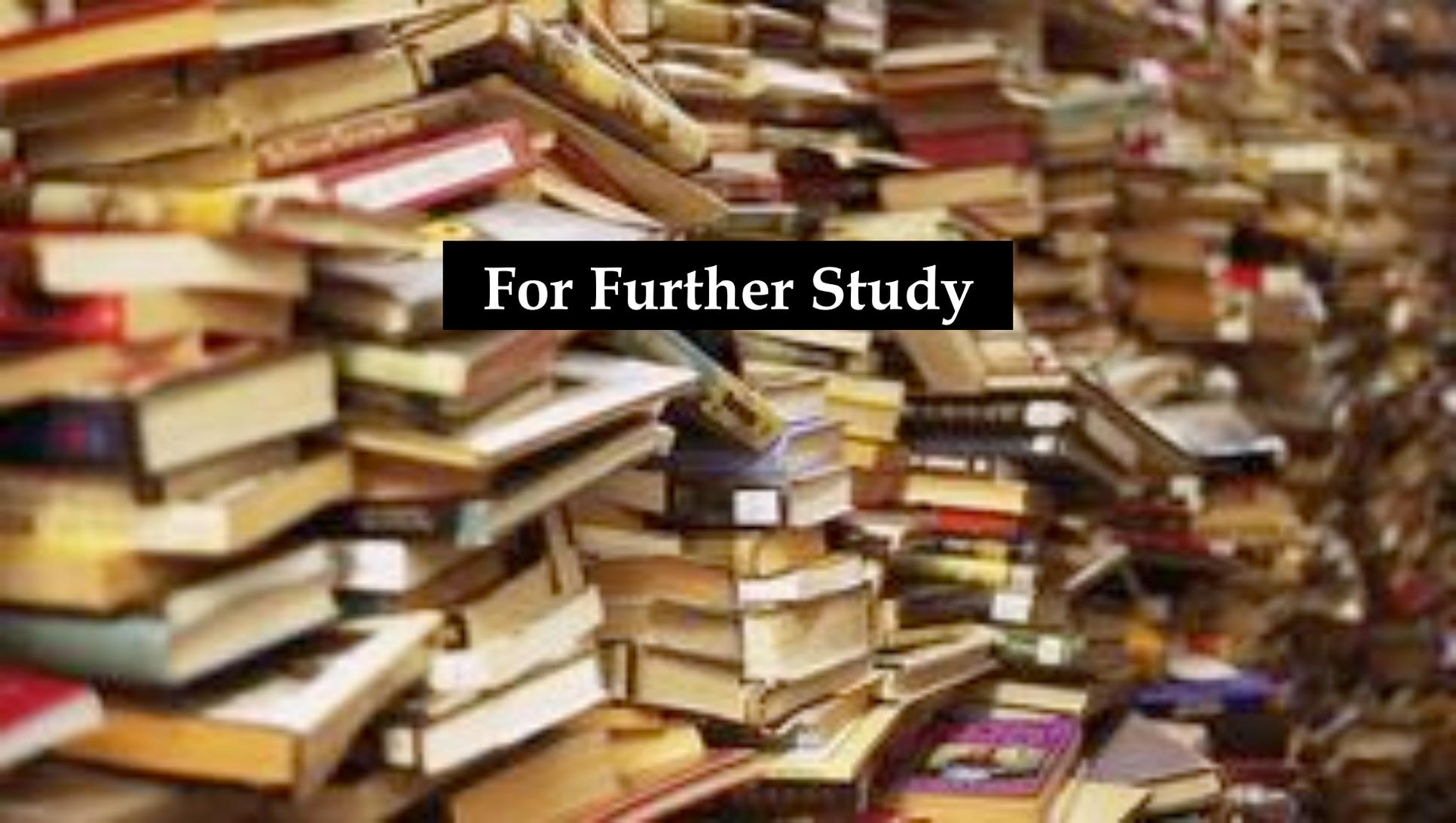
Summer Sermon Series

This week's question:  
*"How should Christians engage  
the topic of abortion?"*

*On life, culture, and the gospel*

May my comments be toward pastoral concerns  
of Hope Community Church.

While aware of and sensitive to public exposure or political  
correctness or opinions of close friends, my foremost commitment  
is to this church, your spiritual care and well-being.



**For Further Study**

Within HCC exist a rich diversity of perspectives and opinions

**Baby  
Boomers**

**Millennials**

**Greatest  
Generation**

**Generation  
X'ers**

**Generation  
Z'ers**



Born between  
1925 and 1946



Born between  
1946 and 1964



Born between  
1965 and 1980

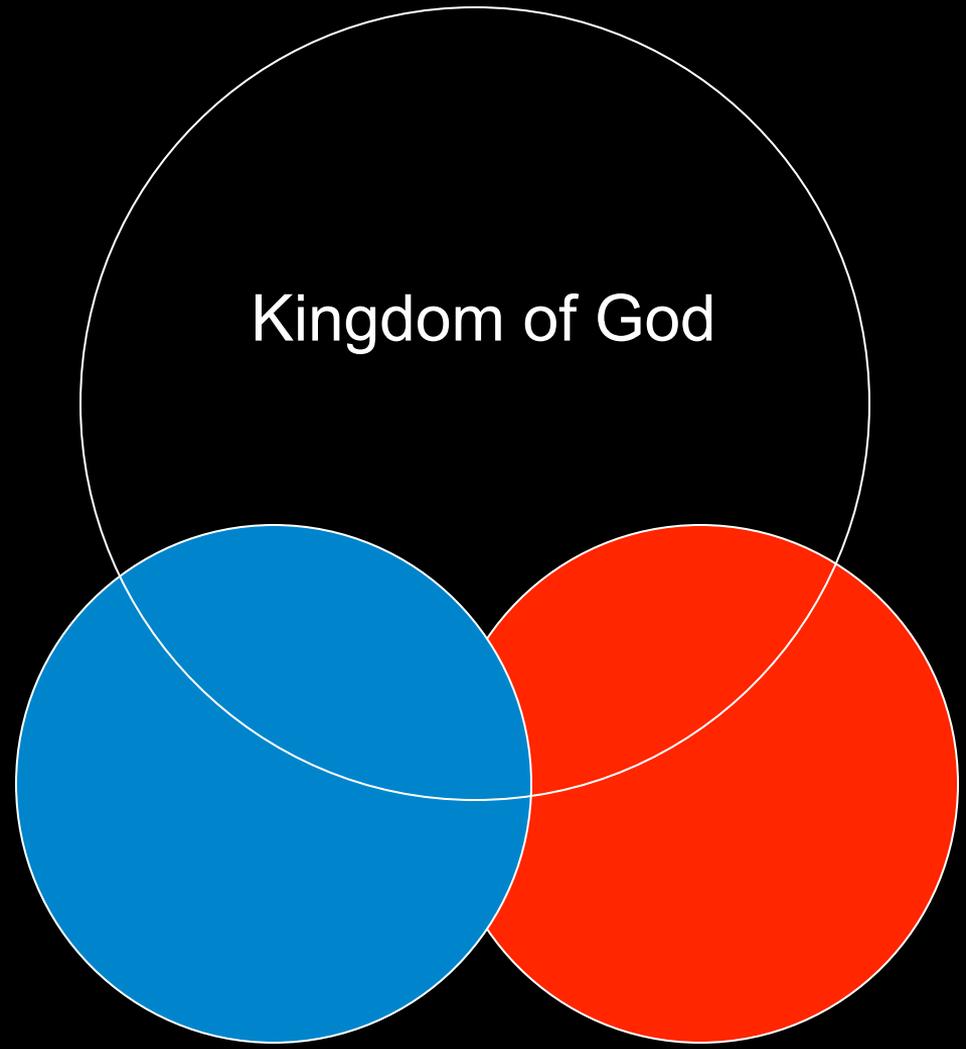


Born between  
1981 and 1995



Born between  
1996 and 2009

**Engaging The 5 Generations**



Kingdom of God

Those who've struggled with infertility

Those who've lost infants and children

Those who've miscarried

Those who've had abortions



Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

# God is the creator of life

## Genesis 1:1, 26-27

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

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**Job 31:15**

15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

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15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

## Psalm 71:6

6 From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

See also: Isaiah 44:2, 44:24, 49:5, Galatians 1:15

# God is the creator of life

## Psalm 139:13–15

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 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.

# God is the creator of life

## John 1:9-13

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# God's creating >> Our understanding

## Ecclesiastes 11:5

5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

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## Jeremiah 1:5

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

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## Psalms 139:16

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# God's creating >> Our understanding

## 1 Samuel 1:5-7a

5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. 6 Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year.

# Scripture equates “baby in the womb” to “baby”

**Luke 1:41, 44**

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## Luke 2:12, 16

12 “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” ...16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

41	•	•	When	Elizabeth	heard	Mary's	greeting	,	the	baby	leaped	in	her	womb	,	and	Elizabeth	was	filled	with	the		
	καὶ	ἤκουσεν	ὅτι	ἡ	Ἐλισάβετ	ἤκουσεν	τὴν	ἡ	ἁγιασματικὴν	ἡ	ἄρτιον	ἐν	αὐτῇ	ἡ	κόλῳ	καὶ	ἡ	Ἐλισάβετ	ἠπλήσθη	τοῦ	ἁγίου		
	kai	ginomai	hōs	ho	Elisabet	akouō	ho	María	ho	aspasmos	ho	ἄρτιον	en	autōs	ho	kolia	kai	ho	Elisabet	plēstēnai	toū	hagíou	
	CLN	VAMDS	CAT	DNSF	NNSF	XP	VAAIS	DGSF	NC2F	DASM	NASM	DNSN	NNSN	VAAIS	P	RP2GSF	DGSF	NDSF	CLN	DNSF	NNSF	XP	VAPDS
	2532	1096	5613		3588	1665	191	3588	3137	3588	783	3588		1025	4640	1722	846	3588	2836	2532	3588	1665	4130
	89.87	91.5	67.45		92.24	93.111	24.52	92.24	93.253	92.24	33.20	92.24		9.45	15.243	83.13	92.11	92.24	8.69	89.87	92.24	93.111	59.38

## Holy Spirit 7

ἅγιος πνεῦμα  
hagios pneuma  
JCSN NC2N  
40 4151  
88.24 12.18

44	•	•	As	soon	as	the	sound	of	your	greeting	reached	•	my	ears	,	the	baby	in	my	womb	leaped	for	joy	
	ὡς	ἤρθε	ὅτι	ἡ	φωνὴ	ἡ	ἁγιασματικὴν	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	
	idea	gar	hōs	ho	phōnē	ay	ho	aspasmos	ginomai	eis	egō	ho	ous	ho	brephos	en	egō	ho	kolia	skirtō	en	agalliasis		
	1	VAAIS	CLX	CAT	DNSF	NNSF	RP2GS	DGSM	NC2M	VAMDS	P	RP2GS	DAPN	NAFN	DNSN	NNSN	P	RP2GS	DGSF	NDSF	VAAIS	P	NDSF	
	2400	1063	5613		3588	5456	4675	3588	783	1096	1519	3450	3588	3775	3588		1025	1722	3450	3588	2836	4640	1722	20
	91.13	89.2367.45		92.24	14.74	92.6	92.24	33.20	85.7	84.22	92.1	92.24	8.24	92.24	9.45	83.13	92.1	92.24	8.69	15.243	89.84	25.132		

12	•	This	will	be	a	sign	*	to	you	: You	will	find	a	baby	wrapped	in	cloths	and	lying	in	a	manger.*
	καὶ	σημεῖον	ἔσται	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	
	kai	houtos	ho	stemeion	ay	heuriskō	heuriskō	brēphos	sparganō	en	keimai	en	phatnē									
	CLNRD	N2N	DNSN	NNSN	RP2DP	VFAISF	NASN	VRFP	SAN	CLN	VPUP	SAN	P	NDSF								
	2532	5124	3588	4592	5213	2147	1025	4683	2532	2749	1722	5336										
	89.87	92.29	92.24	33.477	92.7	27.27	9.45	49.6	89.92	17.26	83.13	6.137										

16	So	they	hurried	off	and	found	•	Mary	and	Joseph	,	and	the	baby	,	who	was	lying	in	the	manger.*			
	καὶ	ἔσπευσαν	ἔσπευσαν	καὶ	ἔβρισαν	τὴν	ἡ	ἁγία	καὶ	ἡ	ἁγία	καὶ	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία	ἡ	ἁγία				
	kai	echomai	spēudo	kai	anouriskō	te	ho	Mariam	kai	ho	Ioseph	kai	ho	brephos	keimai	en	ho	phatnē						
	CLN	VAAISF	VAAIF	PNM	CLN	VAAISF	CLK	DASF	NASF	XP	CLK	CLN	DASM	NASM	XP	CLK	CLN	DASN	NASN	VPUP	SAN	P	DGSF	NDSF
	2532		2064	4692	2532	429	5057	3588	3137	2532	3588	2501	2532	3588	1025			2749	1722	3588	5336			
	89.87		15.81	68.79	89.87	27.28	89.95	92.24	93.254	89.92	92.24	93.202	89.92	92.24	9.45			17.26	83.13	92.24	6.137			

# Scripture equates “baby in the womb” to “baby”

## Exodus 21:22–25

22 “If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman’s husband demands and the court allows. 23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.”

# God upholds a culture of life, but we often don't

## Genesis 9:5-7

5 And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. 6 "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind. 7 As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

# God upholds a culture of life, but we often don't

## Romans 1:18–20, 25

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse...25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.

# God upholds a culture of life, but we often don't

"We hold these truths to be self-evident (sacred and un-deniable), that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.-- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

**Where does this leave us?**

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**What Hope believes about the realities of Life and Abortion**

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Hope believes in the sanctity of human life from conception

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Hope believes in the sanctity of human life from conception

Hope, therefore, believes the taking of a life through abortion comes against God's good purposes in creating

**Where does this leave us?**

**What Hope believes about the nature of sin and grace**

**Where does this leave us?**

**How Hope wants to engage this more broadly**

# Where does this leave us?

**How Hope wants to engage this more broadly**

Stand in Awe of God

Weep over and repent from our sin

Turn to Christ for help and healing

Sit with those who are broken

Remind others of God's love

# **Where does this leave us?**

**How Hope wants to engage this more broadly**

Might Hope Community Church become a safe house  
that people in need run toward

# Where does this leave us?

**How Hope wants to engage this more broadly**

Might Hope Community Church become a safe house  
that people in need run toward

Might Hope Community Church infuse financial and people  
resources to the likes of New Life Family Service

# Gospel Application

*Will we, as a church, foster a culture of life?*

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*Will we, as a church, foster a culture of life?*

*And will we be a safe house for any and every person  
in need of help?*

# Gospel Application

$$365 \times 24 = 8,760 \text{ hours/year}$$

$$8,760 / 1,000 = 8.76 \text{ hours/Hopester}$$