

One Voice for Life
Hebrews 11:14

Dr. David H. McKinley

Sermon preached from the pulpit of Boca Raton Community Church on Sunday, January 21, 2001, by Dr. David H. McKinley, Senior Pastor.

One of the greatest gifts a person receives and possesses is the gift of life. Through the creative work of God, your parents have been God's instruments to bring you into being. God has given you the gift of life! How you live your life and what you do with your life is in return both a gift to Him and a gift to others.

Yet, as we look at our nation's history to the present day, there has not been an issue—outside the issue of slavery—that has been more hotly debated, more sternly contested and more fervently argued from a variety of positions in the public square than the issue of abortion.

As we begin 2001 and a new presidency, one unavoidable and inescapable issue for President George W. Bush will be the direction of the issue of abortion in the future of our nation. Whether you are a politician, physician, educator, newscaster, talk show host, feminist, lobbyist or simply a citizen of this land, you probably take what is categorized as a "pro-choice" or "pro-life" position.

Churches in America have designated today as “Sanctity of Life Sunday,” a day to honor and re-address the issue of life. It is interesting to note, though, that the roots of this controversy go far back into the earliest passages of the Bible. Today, we are going to focus on two passages in Genesis and Hebrews, Old and New Testament, yet linked together to give us some understanding of God's perspective and will on the subject of life.

Hebrews 11:1-3:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."

Through the progressive work of God, the invisible becomes visible in this world through the lives of human beings like you and me who risk life and future to believe God. We find examples of this through the lives of the first two children recorded in the Bible.

Hebrews 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through

it he being dead still speaks.

He being dead still speaks to us today, echoing a testimony about our Creator God. Who are Cain and Abel and what was the issue discussed here in this passage? Let's go back to the account of their lives recorded in Genesis 4.

Genesis 4:

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."

The Bible says there was an act of intimacy and relationship between the first man and the first woman, Adam and Eve. God put them in the garden to procreate, multiply, be fruitful and fill the earth. Their first child was a son and they named him Cain. The Bible also says that Eve bore again and named this son Abel.

Genesis 4:2b-8

Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground of the LORD. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

How could this have happened? Adam and Eve came from a perfect garden, a perfect environment, and the interaction of their first offspring, Cain and Abel, resulted in murder!

Genesis 4:9-10

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground."

God asked a question, but He already knew the answer. God wasn't "in the dark" as some may think. God came fully and confrontationally to Cain to ask (*paraphrased*), "Cain, what have you done with all that I have given and established?"

The Bible does not give us any indication that there was ever a conflict between Cain and Abel prior to this in terms of their inter-personal relationship. There was an issue of Cain's conscience, of the heart, as it related to his relationship with God and worship. The issue of conscience was not addressed rightly before a holy God. Cain destroyed the

life of his brother as a result.

What an incredible picture and message this is to us living in America today as we hear the voices that cry out support for and resistance against abortion!

The story of Cain and Abel brings forth a variety of issues that I cannot fully address in the limited time I have today. However, there are some principles in this passage of Scripture that give us a glimpse of the value of life as seen in the Word of God.

The first is a very simple observation and yet I believe one of the most important ones that we need to see and that is what happened between Cain and Abel first and foremost related to an act of worship in relationship with God. Something that I need to point out to you and that I need to be reminded of every day is that we approach God on the basis of His standard and not our own. Whenever we approach God our Creator we must respect who He is and what He is like and any approach that is ever made to God must always be on the basis of His standard and not our own. We read this account of what happened between Cain and Abel and we think, okay, Cain was a guy who worked out with sheep and so he brought an offering to the Lord of the sheep and Cain was a guy who was a tiller of the ground, he was a farmer, and I am sure he had some very beautiful fruit that he brought and he made that an offering to the Lord. Why would God accept one and say thumbs up, you did a good job and why would God look at the other and say thumbs down. Didn't each of them reflect what they did in life, weren't they just simply out of their heart and hands and effort doing something to honor God? Why would God be so arbitrary? Why would God be so mean as to accept one and to refuse the other? There is an issue that we must not miss here and that issue is not found as clearly right here in this passage in Genesis as it is in Hebrews. Going back to Hebrews, in Chapter 12 verse 24 the Bible gives us a very important principle of understanding how we are to relate to God. The Bible says:

"...to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."

It says what Abel did was a picture, a type, to honor God's request of a sacrifice of blood but Jesus came to be the ultimate fulfillment of that sacrifice. Jesus is a testimony of a greater covenant. The issue in Genesis and the issue in Hebrews over the two sacrifices has nothing to do with what each of them brought, it had to do with what God required. The Bible is very clear that when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden and when they became aware of their own sinfulness and God came looking for them that they hid themselves with fig leaves and all of us have seen pictures of Adam and Eve wearing branches haven't we? The reality is that while Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves the Bible tells us in the Book of Genesis that God looked at them and spoke to them about what they had done in their sin and then the Bible says that God covered them with animal skins. God made a sacrifice for His people. Beginning with Adam and Eve He demonstrated to them that the life of the flesh is in the blood. The Bible has always taught us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin because sin always destroys. Sin is the antithesis and counteraction of everything that God put into

being in life. God's intention was that life would be fruitful and multiply and sin is always that which obstructs and destroys. So beginning with Adam and Eve God demonstrated that there would have to be a sacrifice for sin. Any act of worship from the children of that pair would have to be an act of worship based on the requirement that God had established and the requirement that God had was that there was to be a sacrifice of blood. So here we have the contrast. We have Abel's approach to God, an approach of humble submission. He came to God, brought a sacrifice and the act of worship that Abel performed he did it God's way. In fact real worship is a faith response to God's revelation. When I worship God the way that I worship Him is not just any way I want to but I worship based on what He has revealed to me about Himself. That's way the Bible says by faith we believe that the worlds were framed and that God created this world. Creation every day calls me to worship. The wonder of it all says that there is a Creator, a Master Designer, and from deep inside of me something calls me forth to worship God and to know that my life as a human thinking, breathing being is much more than all of the animal and plant life that I see around me. So there is a need to respond to God. But what Abel did in his response was that he understood that there was only one basis of approach to God and that was on the basis of what God required and God required a sacrifice, the shedding of blood because without the shedding of blood there would be no forgiveness of sin. God had provided a way to restore and to redeem mankind who was fallen and separated from Him but it was only in the way that He had provided. It was only through a faith response that said God, I come to You not on the basis of my goodness but on the basis of being sinful and in need of forgiveness and I place myself before You.

Cain on the other hand doesn't approach God with humble submission but Cain's approach to God was one of self-assertion. Cain said I'm going to do it my way. Its not going to be God's way, its going to be my way. My way is as good as Abel's way and God's way. Frankly, I don't like messing with animals; frankly I am a little repulsed by blood and I don't see that if I have worked hard I can't simply do it my way. Surely God will reward the effort; surely God will give me a sense of responsiveness based on what I have done. And that is exactly how Cain attempted to approach God. But in that approach, what Cain did he disregarded God's requirement. He simply set aside God's requirement and he established his own authority and simply said I'll come to God on my terms, I'll do it my way; I'll live the way that I want to. The result of this attitude in Cain's life was it impacted his relationship with God. Cain rather than being reconciled and at peace with God was separated and alienated from God and the impact of that in his life was one of very serious consequence. You see, as a created being we need connection with our Creator and need to have a sense of being right in heart and conscience toward God. But Abel, instead of being right in his conscience toward God had disregarded the requirement of God, established his own authority and the result was it impacted his ability to respond to God rightly. Cain, rather than being connected to God was disconnected to Him and the consequence was very serious.

There are two types of people who come to worship. There are those who come with a simple faith response believing what God has done to allow us to approach Him through His son, Jesus Christ and based on acceptance on what Christ has done, can be rightly

connected to God. Its not based on how I have lived my life for the last 10 years or who I have lived my life for the last 5 days. Its based on the fact that God did something for me in Jesus Christ and the only basis of having a hope of my prayers being heard, of my sins being forgiven, of my life being renewed all begins on a faith response to who God is and what He has done and *His* requirement being met in Jesus Christ. Every time we see a cross, a cross testifies to us that God paid the price for our sins, that blood was shed for us, we can come to Him by grace and mercy and forgiveness. On the other hand there are those who are disconnected from God like Abel and they come to worship and their thought is maybe if I can just do a few good things: I'll just show up at church, I'll give a little in the collection plate, maybe I'll read my Bible some; maybe I'll try a little harder. Surely if I keep doing enough eventually God will see I'm a good guy. But you see, we can never come to God based on who we are and what we are because we are in the image of our father Adam just like Cain and Abel. Because Cain and Abel were in the image of their parents and not in the original image of God's creation in that they were a part of the fallen image as a part of sinfulness in their lives they needed to come to God on the terms of His established and provided way and there is only one way to God -- it is through the trail of blood because the only way sin can be forgiven is through a sacrifice. I can't sacrifice for my sin and you can't sacrifice for your sin but God has provided a sacrifice and His name is Jesus Christ. So the first principle is we must approach God on the basis of His standing and not our own. That's what was wrong with Cain and Abel. It wasn't that God said hey, you're a good guy, you're a bad guy because one did what God required and one did what he thought would be right.

Lets look at the second principle that we see in this passage in the Book of Genesis and that is not only that we approach God on the basis of His standard and not our own but secondly we must acknowledge that our attitudes determine the actions of our lives. If we fail to come to God and to be right with God the attitudes that begin to build inside of us will ultimately determine and define the actions and activities of our lives. Cain resisted God; Cain didn't do what God told him to do. The result of failing to do what God had instructed and required not only had a great impact on his relationship with God but it had a tremendous impact of what happened inside of him. Something changed in Cain. Something began to be different about him and the Bible makes it very clear in verse 5 of Chapter 4 of Genesis. It says that God accepted the sacrifice of Abel but he did not respect Cain or his offering and Cain was very angry. Rather than simply having the impact of having failed to worship God something is starting to happen in the heart of Cain. Cain is no longer a man who is free and clear of conscience. He is a man who has something going on inside, something is eating at Cain and there is an anger in his life based both on what is happening to him and his relationship with God. That attitude is beginning to take root and will one day bear fruit in his life. He resented God's standard, His truth, and he resisted God's will and it made him hard on the inside.

Someone has said you sow a thought, you reap a deed; you sow a deed you reap a habit; you sow a habit, you reap a character; you sow a character you reap a destiny. And it all began with thoughts that were injurious. Thoughts that were murderous thoughts, that led Cain to a destiny that no one could have ever imagined. I don't know how it all really started, maybe it was shame, guilt, pride, some kind of pain or injury, I don't know what

started it but I know that because something in his life was left undone and unresolved because he didn't meet God's requirement, the result of that was it turned deeply into a bitterness and an anger in his life. It is amazing what anger can do, whether it is suppressed, repressed or expressed in someone's life once anger takes root inside of us. One of the most awful passages of scripture is found in the Book of II Samuel, Chapter 11. In the first Book of Samuel and the majority of II Samuel is about a man named David and he was an incredible man. He loved God, he was a pure and holy man. David kept doing right things though everybody else kept doing wrong things and particularly the king who was threatened by him. But David remained pure in his heart toward God and had many great victories. There came a day in David's life, the Bible says, when the kings went to battle and David stayed home and went out on the rooftop late at night. He looked down and there was this incredibly beautiful woman named Bathsheba and she was taking a bath. The Bible says that David was attracted and aroused by Bathsheba and he required that Bathsheba be brought to him. He had a sexual relationship with her. Recognizing what he had done was wrong because he knew that Bathsheba was actually someone else's wife (she was the wife of his most trusted military leader, a man by the name of Uriah). Do you know what David did? He said he didn't need to let anybody know what had happened. "I need that guy to come back home and spend a few days with his wife, just kind of cover my bases in case something happens, in case she gets pregnant, so no one will know." So David brought this man back and guess what. This faithful soldier came back and said I can't go home and take the privilege of being with my wife and taking some days off because all of my men are at the front line and they are giving their life to King David and to the nation of Israel. He said I would not do anything like that. He said, I'm here king if you need me to do something I'll do it but obviously my heart, my life is with my men. I love my wife, I love this community, I love what I am but I am not here to be a free man, I'm a soldier, I'm enlisted, I'm on duty, what would you have me to do? David wrote a letter and he sent it by the hand of that man himself and he sent it to the front line and it said press the battle forward, pull the troops back and leave Uriah out by himself. Guess what happened, he was murdered. He was slaughtered in the battle and David, a man who had never given any evidence of being anything but pure towards God after an act of immorality in his life began to have a hardened conscience, a resistance, a sense of hiding from God, a sense of anger deep down inside. He would not allow himself to be shamed publicly he found a way to try to cover his sin. You see, in our world today we have all kinds of arguments of resistance, differences of opinion about the subject of abortion. But I want you to know I am absolutely convinced that there is only one difference of opinion and it is between someone whose life and heart somehow allowed shame or guilt, anger or bitterness to take root and to ultimately give them a sense of searing of conscience to take an action against a helpless, innocent baby, something they would never consciously think of doing but something has happened in their heart and their relationship with God and somehow in the process of promoting immorality we have killed innocent children. There is a stain in the soul of America today because our attitudes have determined our actions and the spirit of immorality that has *dominated* this generation has given way to the murderous slaughter of thousands and thousands of innocent babies. Do I believe that every person who has ever participated in or has ever experienced an abortion is a mean, angry, horrible person? *No* I do not. I think many have been deceived. I think many have been

justified within the social movement of our culture, but I believe deep underneath it all there is a spirit of resistance towards God that is given to an attitude that says I will do it *my* way and the result has been an injury in a nation and in the conscience and lives of hundreds of people who are bearing the shame and scar and mothers who know they had a baby in them that was taken away and they've never forgotten that moment. There is a pain and injury inside and we see it here in the life of this man.

Lets just set it aside for a moment. If it gets down to any intellectual debate whatsoever there is only one question we ever have to determine. If you ever want to know what the product of conception is you only have to ask one question: who are the parents. If we want to know what the product of conception is and its a turtle egg out on the seashore we only have to know that there was a set of sea turtle parents that produced that sea turtle egg. And if we see some baby eaglets we know that there were some eagles who produced those eaglets. If the parents who conceived a human embryo are humans then obviously what happens in a womb is a human life. There is no dispute. The issue is we have made one set of those endangered and finable and bring it under prosecution by the law and the other one, human life, has been called a choice and has been protected in its destruction by law. There is only one thing that could get our thinking that far off and that is something has happened toward God and something has happened in here that has disturbed and destroyed our ability to think rightly.

One of the most interesting passages of scripture I believe in the Bible is found in Matthew 9:4. The scripture gives a picture of a day when some people came to Jesus. They were the Pharisees and they were always finding something wrong with what Jesus did. Oh, they were the religious righteous group in their community in that day and they stood up and they always had -----[side a ends] ----- forgave a paralytic man of his sins and helped someone who had never walked to be able to walk that the scribes and Pharisees that were there looked at Jesus and said this man is a blasphemous man. They began to accuse Jesus publicly. But I love the way Jesus responded to them.

"But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, 'Why do you think evil in your hearts?'"

Did Jesus make a mistake there? Did Jesus talk about thinking with the brain and then mix it up with the heart? No. Jesus understood that if something happens in your heart it affects the way you think. You see, He realized that in their hearts they had rejected Him. In their hearts they had established their own standard. In their hearts they refused to submit themselves to God. In their hearts they had become the vanguards of the religion of their own will and their own forces. And Jesus looked at them and said why do you think evil thoughts in your hearts?

As I have listened and watched the debates over the Senate confirmation hearings of John Ashcroft this past week and as I have listened to what has been said I can't get over what is being said without saying why are you thinking evil thoughts in your hearts. Hear me clearly. I do not know and have never met Senator John Ashcroft. If there is any hint or any trace to the fact that he has given credence to any form of prejudice or bigotry that has been in any way a bias against his character he should not serve as the attorney

general of the United States. But if, on the other hand, what he is facing as a man who has a high standard of life is an attack and assault from a group of people who have in their hearts the intent of only promoting everything that God has condemned then my prayer is that he will be established. My prayer is that he will be a part of a new sphere of influence for a future of America that will restore its sense of conscience and regain a sense of understanding that it is time again to choose to protect and preserve life beginning with human life. That is my prayer. I have no need to promote anything from a political agenda but I do want you to know that I believe there are right and wrong influences in our society. One of the most outstanding members of the Senate committee who has attacked and maligned has been someone from California by the name of Barbara Boxer and Ms. Boxer not long ago was involved in a debate over the issue of life and in particular, over partial birth abortion and in the process of that they tried to nail her down as to what point they felt that an abortion should proceed and should stop. One of the other senators, one of her colleagues said, Ms. Boxer, what if in the process of doing a partial delivery you accidentally make a whole delivery before the abortion is accomplished, what do you think -- should that baby be aborted at that point, is that human life? Rick Santorum from Pennsylvania said, you agree that once a child is born separated from the mother that that child is protected by the Constitution and cannot be killed, do you agree with that Ms. Boxer? And Boxer said, well, I think when you bring the baby home. I'm telling you there is an evil thought in the heart. Now I don't say that to be judgmental but I do say that to establish a standard. Something is wrong and is being echoed again and again in America and what it has been has been a spirit that has somehow been rooted in a lifestyle that has established our standard instead of God, that has given way to attitudes that support our opinions of ourselves instead of what God has said. If we do not deal with those attitudes then we will never change the actions because attitudes determine actions.

There is one final thing I want you to see. In Genesis 4:6 Cain is angry. He has established his own standard and listen to God speak to this man. I have to tell you if I were God and I saw Cain and what he did, how he acted, and that he was angry I would probably said, I've had enough of you and zap! You're out of here! I don't need you. But that is not the kind of God God is. God the Creator of all the heavens and earth looked at Cain and said:

"Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?"

Cain, if you just do what I required of you -- if you will simply come in humility and bring a sacrifice, won't you be accepted? Hey Cain, I have got an idea: how about we do it again. I'll give you a second chance. Maybe you were confused. I will let you know what a merciful and gracious God I am. And if you do well won't you be accepted? But obviously you know the rest of the story. Cain resisted and chose his own way. Cain even looked to God and said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" What is the principle? We all have to admit our need for forgiveness. We all have to admit our need for forgiveness and for God to make us whole. Cain had been broken and injured by his sin and he needed God to make him whole. He needed God's forgiveness and may I just say to you

today, the greatest need of anyone who is at a point in crises unplanned, unexpected pregnancy is not to have someone look at them and encourage them toward an abortion. They need to have someone look at them and point them toward an admission of need for help and forgiveness and wholeness. Aborting a baby never satisfies the issue, it only complicates the process, it only does deeper, long-term psychological injury and even potentially physical injury. But you see, what Cain needed was forgiveness and he needed God to make him whole because he couldn't make himself whole. God provides a way of forgiveness for all of us and frankly, everyone of us needs to see and hear that our message, though we clearly are rooted and planted in a camp called pro-life though I don't like camps, and the politics that go with that, morally and spiritually I have no shame or embarrassment to say I am pro-life because I believe that is what the scripture teaches. But I am also pro-love and I don't believe that being pro-life is ever allowable if I do not have a spirit of love and compassion to see the needs and injuries and mistakes and failures that people make in their lives, the miss-judgments that come, the things they didn't expect, the sense of denial that may have been a part of a relationship they thought they would escape without injury. You see, I see all of those things and I know there must be the love of Jesus Christ of forgiving, cleansing, merciful Savior. You see, the answer to an abortion is not getting an abortion, its finding the forgiveness, love and wholeness of God. If you have had an abortion the answer is not someone standing in a pulpit and beating you up with the Bible, it is understanding that there is a Savior who can give you a spirit of forgiveness and who can ultimately take something that was a deep injury in your life and make it something He uses even as a part of an injury to be a part of something that will make you whole in the days to come because Christ forgives and God gives second chances and God helps us to begin again. Cain is an example of someone who resisted and he took the life of his brother and ultimately the Bible says:

"The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground." Genesis 4:10."

Do you remember that passage in Hebrews, it said the voice of your brother still speaks though he is dead. You see whenever we do what is wrong there is a living witness against us and God is calling us as a people to choose life, to protect, promote, honor life, to make it something we cherish.

I have said a lot but let me just close this message with just giving 3 things I think you and I can do to make a difference. I do think it is important to not just say what is right, what is wrong and what happened but always think, what now. So, if we could just answer the voices of those who cry out, if we could just see and hear that the voices of babies cry out just as the voice of Abel cries out and there is a need for someone to answer and there is a way for us to answer the need of our nation and our need as a people and that is:

- First and foremost we must pray for change in the conscience of our nation. We cannot win the abortion battle in the court system though some day it may be won there by protection in the law. It has to be won in the heart. There is a need to take ground by praying that God would give us a new conscience as a nation and the first

step in gaining a new conscience is to quell the permissive immoral lifestyle that has been so rampant in American; that somehow people would understand the difference between love and lust, between what matters and what doesn't. We need to pray that there would be change in the conscience of our nation and I am praying that our new president will be a new beginning of a new conscience of moral awareness in America.

- Second, we need to show compassion to those who are in crises. We need to never be willing to stand and beat pulpits and shout at people and carry signs and picket and march if we are not willing to love people who are in the middle of a crisis. One of the ministries I love in this community is First Care and the past year through the five pregnancy centers of First Care, 3,700 new clients have been talked to who found themselves wondering if they were at the crossroads of an unplanned, unexpected pregnancy. I am so thankful for a ministry that without charge offers a service of a free pregnancy test, provides love and counseling, will provide food, shelter, clothing, will help with medical issues, everything that is needed to help a mother chose life for her baby and to choose wholeness for herself. You can become a counselor, you can become a part of the First Care ministry and I would encourage you to be a part of this ministry, a vital ministry of this community.
- And then we need to speak confidently for life. We don't ever need to let the extremism of the other side force us to silence or ever let us to fatigue to the point of non-resistance. This is not a flesh fight it is a spiritual battle and will only be won when we pray and prevail in the spirit. I want you to know I believe it is vital for us to keep speaking for life and keep pointing out where the facts are. You know, the amazing thing about science and the Bible is that science has never disproved the Bible, it has only confirmed the Bible. That is all its ever done. The Bible said the life of the flesh is in the blood -- our first president was potentially bled to death because they thought letting out the blood would help somebody get healthy. The Bible said that years ago. It has never been proven wrong in that arena. Let me tell you, the facts are on our side and when you look at science and look at what happens in a human embryo and the development and wonder of it all the Bible defines all those things. So we need to keep speaking of life and echoing the voices of those who stain the conscience of our nation with their blood.

Numerous times I have had the opportunity of taking trips to Israel and I love going to the Holy Land and I love taking people and I wish so badly I had a trip planned right now to go. I'm sure we could get cheap fare but its not really probably the best time to be over there. I love going there, I love going to the Sea of Galilee, to the City of Jerusalem, to Bethlehem but of all the things that I have done in Jerusalem that have been precious to me because of my love for the Bible and for the land and history and people, one of the things that surprised me in Israel was when I went to the Holocaust Museum. Its a modern entity in Israel. There are many different displays that commemorate the slaughter of over 6 million Jewish people during World War II by Hitler and his awful regime but one of the things that has touched me deeply is to walk into a great, dark room and in that room there are candles lit all along the pathway and all along the walls of the

room. As you walk in that room you simply hear the voices of children saying the names of children and it is a memorial, a perpetual light and a perpetual echo of the lives of children that were destroyed by the murderous efforts of Adolf Hitler. You will never walk through that display and you will never see how deeply that is etched in the soul and conscience of the people that you do not walk out of there hearing the names and voices of those children and seeing those candles that you cannot help but say I will be a candle in the darkness and this will never happen again. I'm telling you today, we're here to echo the voices of the children and we must stand for life. I don't care what the government system and the political system does with this issue, I'm telling you as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we must love and protect and promote the most sacred thing that God has created, human life. God loves people. He makes a lot of different kinds of them and some of them I don't know how in the world He loves but God so loved the world that He gave His only Son Jesus that whoever believed in Him would not perish but would have everlasting life. You see, there is so much more to life even in this moment, there's eternity. And today, one of the greatest things you can do is to come to God on the basis of His requirement of faith and truth in Jesus Christ to receive His gift, the gift of eternal life and to allow Him to work in your heart and in your life to give you peace with Him, to give you a sense of purpose and purity and living every day and to ultimately give you a hope of heaven one day when you die because it is life full and complete and it is heaven beyond. I hope you know that gift of life, the gift of eternal life.

Father, you know one of my greatest fears is that in talking about the anger that so often creates a deep bitterness and resistance toward you in the spirit of our lives because we have failed You, we have resisted You because of immorality. One of my greatest fears as a preacher is I would stand and talk about an issue like this in an angry fashion and that someone people would see human anger and they would not see the love and compassion of our Father who does not want us destroyed but wants us in a relationship with Himself, who wants us to know grace and mercy and forgiveness. You have still been merciful on our behalf and we thank You. Lord, I pray for men and women who may have been impacted deep in their hearts because of the issue of an abortion; just sitting here today has been almost more than they could bear. Their conscience is injured and the wicked one would tell them to resist and dismiss. Father, I pray there would be people today who would put their faith and trust in Jesus and I pray they would find forgiveness in Him and wholeness in Him. I pray for any man, woman, boy or girl who has never really understood the greatest gift of life, the gift of eternal life that today they would receive Christ, You Son, and by putting simple faith and trust in Him that they would be saved.

I am going to lead in a prayer of faith and if you have never prayed that prayer I am going to invite you to pray a prayer to receive Christ in your life:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. Lord I need Your forgiveness in my life. Jesus, I ask that you come in to my life and to cover my sin with Your blood; that you would cleanse my life and take control of my life and make me the person You would me to be. Jesus, You did on the cross for my sin and today I receive the gift of eternal life

according to Your promise. Thank You for doing what You've promised in my life and in my heart today.

You don't have to have had an abortion or performed an abortion or be abortion minded to pray this prayer. If you prayed that prayer today, let us help you continue to grow in your faith. We have ministers on our church staff that can answer any questions you may have. We have a Bible we can give you and resources to help and encourage you in your decision to follow Christ. Please contact us, either through correspondence or by telephone.

Boca Raton Community Church
601 N.W 4th Avenue
Boca Raton, Fl 33432