

The Battle for Life!

Ted and Kaitlyn – Jan 22, 2023

Introduction

Video opening (<https://skitguys.com/videos/all-life-is-holy>)

Exhortation about the beauty of life (Kaitlyn)

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Psalm 139: 13-16 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.

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.

Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew^{al} you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

God is the Potter, imagined us, created us for purpose

- Our culture doesn't value life like this
- The enemy lies to us making us think abortion has no consequences
- The affects can show up immediately or years later - emotional, physical, spiritual

Abortion has affected many, but God's healing and forgiveness is available to all (Ted)

1. The affects not only the mom, but also the father, the family
2. The enemy wants us to live in condemnation, but Jesus came to bring abundant life
3. Jesus heals, redeems, and restores (mention APC abortion recovery program)
4. We're here to bring a message of hope about God's mercy and a fresh call to action
5. It's all about the Greatest Commandment

Care Net envisions a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and empowered to choose life for their unborn children and abundant life for their families.

1. **The Ever Changing Battle-field for Life**

- 2022 brought about a great victory. For my entire adult life there was a focus on seeing Roe v Wade overturned. We should celebrate that victory.
 - The enemy did not just limp away. No, to kill, steal, and destroy is what our enemy is all about, so he continues to press on. So must we.
 - I've seen already that in political arenas many "pro-life" members shrinking back. Afraid to take a strong stand because of the strong back-lash out there now. We must not be like those that shrink back.
 - The battle-field has shifted and continues to shift quickly. (back to Kaitlyn)
- a. **Abortion pill (medical abortion)-There's been many changes in how abortions are obtained**
- Responsible for over half of the abortions now
 - The abortion pill is 2 drugs that are taken over the course of about 2 days. The first drug cuts off the supply of blood and nutrients to the developing embryo. 24-48 hours later, the second drug is taken to cause the uterus to contract and expel the embryo.
 - Marketed to young women as safe, even though there is 4x's the risk of complications with the pill compared to surgical abortion
 - Laws that used to protect women and require them to go into the Dr.'s office, taking the pills under the oversight of a Dr., have been removed and now women can get and take the pill without ever going into the office to be seen.
 - The FDA actually stated that they no longer wanted to hear about the complications from using the abortion pill, but only deaths
 - It can be a traumatic experience, as the mother is pretty much going into induced labor by herself in her home. Also, depending on how far along she is, there is a potential she will see the embryo whose little features are already developed within weeks of pregnancy.
 - Along with all of the physical risks and potential complications with an abortion, there is evidence that abortion is associated with a decrease in long-term emotional and mental health.
 - GOOD NEWS: If a woman has taken the first abortion pill, and then changes her mind, there is something called the abortion pill reversal which counteracts the effects of the abortion pill.
 - It works by flooding the mother's body with progesterone which is the hormone needed for the pregnancy to continue.
 - The goal is treat the mother within 24hrs of her taking the abortion pill, but there have been many successful reversals within the first 72 hours.
 - Over 3,000 lives have been saved because of the abortion pill reversal! More information on this can be found at abortionpillreversal.com.

b. Changes in laws:

- July 3, 2019 - Injunction put in place to block the enforcement of the Heartbeat Law. (1)
- June 24, 2022 - the US Supreme Court overturned the Roe vs Wade ruling, returning the legality of abortion to the domain of the states (2) and the injunction blocking the Heartbeat Law was dissolved. (3)
- September 14, 2022 - Heartbeat Law blocked through a temporary restraining order. This ban restored access to abortion for up to 21 weeks 6 days in Ohio. (4)
- October 7, 2022 - A permanent injunction that halts Ohio's Heartbeat Law was granted by Common Pleas Court Judge Christian Jenkins. (5)

c. Most recent developments:

- The FDA recently updated the abortion pill label to allow it to be prescribed at retail pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS. (Abortion pills can NOT be obtained at pharmacies in Ohio because of a 2004 law that prevents it.)
- Then, the United States Postal Service stated it could legally deliver abortion pills to any state regardless of local laws.
- Developments like these are shaping the new frontier of abortion tourism, abortion pills, and federal-designed workarounds to bypass state laws.

d. What's on the horizon?

- We have a conservative majority on the Ohio Supreme Court that will most probably overturn the block on the Heartbeat Bill later this year.
- There is not yet any legislation in place to ban all abortions in Ohio since the overturning of Roe v Wade. While there are bills in place to do this that are planned to be introduced this year
- Currently, Planned parenthood along with others are working to get constitutional amendments passed to enshrine "abortion rights" in Ohio setting up to get a possible ballot initiative as early as November 2023
- In 2022, 6 states had similar ballot initiatives to protect access to abortion, and all of these initiatives passed in favor of abortion. These initiatives were able to pass based on a lot of misinformation and scare tactics.
- The language of the Ohio ballot initiatives is not yet available, but we are assuming it will be similar to other states that makes abortion a "fundamental right." So what does that mean?

If something like this should pass, *it would mean that any legislation that is already in place in Ohio to protect preborn children would go away.* There would be no limits on abortion of any kind because it would make abortion a right at any stage of development up until the moment of birth.

2. Why does it matter? (Ted)

Our culture is largely a culture of death. Sadly, the messages being told to our children today are:

- The world is overcrowded!
- We are headed for catastrophe – and people are the problem!
- We would be better off if our world didn't have you in it!

An English Cleric, Thomas Malthus wrote an influential essay on the Principle of Population. In essence he said that as populations grow we will eventually run out of the finite resources of the earth and people will starve out in misery. Such an optimistic chap.

It seems possible that this philosophy, which had taken hold in England was one of the things being targeted by Charles Dickens in "A Christmas Carol". Good old Scrooge talking about "the surplus population".

The reality is that Malthus and all who continue to be inspired by him today – are wrong!

- Every person is valuable to God and wanted for a relationship with him
- Contrary to popular philosophy about the earth being "over-crowded", reality is things keep getting better because
- People are the world's greatest resource!

Created in God's image

Recognize that you a child of God. You have within the imprint of deity and a mandate to reign in the context of a relationship with the creator himself.

Gen 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Some important points here -

1. We were all made in the likeness of God. There is in us a similarity to the creator of the universe. As God is creative, so are we. As God changes his surroundings, so do we. As

God has power to rule, so do we.

2. We were made with a mandate to rule the earth. What that could mean would be for man to not let hunger, or disease, or the weather cause human suffering.
3. We are to fill the earth with people.

Part of our purpose is **to work, to serve the LORD**. Now I love to play – sports, games, watch sports... and there is that place for “rest” in God’s created order. But true satisfaction comes from doing the will of God, which is to work for Him. Now reading on...God intends us to serve him in the context of relationship:

Gen 2:18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Gen 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

Work is done in the context of relationship. With God and each other. Can you picture the scene? The impression is given that God visited the garden in a tangible way on a regular basis. I picture it like this: Adam and Eve are working together in unity, doing the work tending the garden which God has created in perfection, and at the end of the day God comes down and they sit and chat for a few hours about what’s going on.

- What did they do today?
- Did you learn something new?
- What were the animals doing today?

Isn’t that beautiful? Who would sign up for that job?

From the beginning – work, serving God, is in the context of relationship.

But then man fell because of his rebellious heart. He believed the devil’s lies instead of God’s truth. Still God loved mankind and put a plan of redemption in place.

Ezek 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. 27 My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

And this final destination is also shown at the end of the story:

Rev 22:1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be

in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

People are the world's greatest resource

“What matters, then, is not the physical limits of our planet, but human freedom to experiment and reimagine the use of resources that we have.”

- Gale Pooley and Marian Tupy, Superabundance

By every objective measure, people live better today than they did 200 years ago.

- Average life expectancy is much higher
- Number of people living in extreme poverty is lower
- Famines and starvation events are less extreme
- Resources and opportunities are far more abundant

A couple of fun examples:

1. Life is sweeter now

- In 1850 a worker would need to work ~ 3 hours to earn enough to buy 1 pound of sugar.
- In 2021, that much labor would buy you 288 pounds!

2. Life is cooler now

- A blue-collar worker in 1952 had to work 204 hours (5 weeks) to earn enough money to buy an air conditioner.
- In 2019, that same worker would only have to work 5.5 hours to buy a more efficient unit (with a remote!)

3. How do we fight today's battle in 2023?

1) Seek to understand why do women have abortions (Ted)

- a) Not understanding the value of life at conception
- b) Believing lies of culture "all about me", "take care of yourself first"
- c) Fear
- d) Lack of support
- e) Physical, mental, emotional needs

2) Share the gospel (Kaitlyn)

- a) Connecting people to the God who calms our fears, brings peace, provides, etc.
- b) Help people to see that life is good!

3) Teach your kids (Ted)

- a) Value of life - from conception
- b) Beauty of adoption?

4) Help a single mom/young family/couple (Kaitlyn)

- a) It's a courageous decision for a single mom to choose to raise her child (still has needs)
- b) Reach out to a single mom & her children/family
- c) Neighbor, friend, someone you meet at the park or grocery store
- d) Older man mentoring a younger man (teaching how to be a good father)

5) Partner with local pregnancy center - APC (Ted/Kaitlyn)

- a) Pray for center, board, staff, volunteers & clients
- b) Volunteer (so many opportunities)
- c) Consider partnering through financial giving

Conclusion

Closing story (Kaitlyn)