



## Sermon -- "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5 & Selected Passages

Cynthiana Baptist Church, Cynthiana, Ky.

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Well today is my birthday. Actually it is the 41st anniversary of my birthday, because you really only have one birth day. Forty-one years ago today my mother and I were in Patti A Clay hospital. I came in this world causing her pain and I don't think I have ever stopped. No I'm just kidding. But when you stop and think about it, isn't birth an amazing thing. You know I've been doing a lot of thinking about birth and pregnancy lately. Partly because we have had a string of births in our church in the last 2 years, and also because I knew my birthday was coming up. God really knew what he was doing when he made up this whole process of birth didn't he. I'm amazed not only that God made up this entire process but even when I was in my mothers womb God had a plan for my life. God knew even while I was in my mothers womb that I would be here today preaching in this pulpit. That's amazing. But don't take my word for it. Lets hear what God has to say about it.

[Read:]

- **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."
- **Isaiah 49:5** -- "And now the LORD says-- he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength--"
- **Jeremiah 1:5** -- "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."
- **Ecclesiastes 11:5** -- "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."

We cannot understand completely the work of God but today, because of technology, we can see the work of God in the womb first hand. National Geographic has just put out a new film entitled "The Biology of Prenatal Development". This film allows us to see what is actually happening in the womb.

- **3 weeks** - The heart begins beating
- **6 weeks** - The diaphragm is formed; the heart and its four chambers are fully formed. The first brain waves are detected.
- **7 weeks** - Hands, feet, arms, legs, and all major organs are detectable. At seven weeks, it is possible for a baby to get the hiccups. Isn't that the sweetest thing in the world?
- **8 Weeks** - Most major body systems are in place. The brain is highly complex and right or left-handed dominance is detectable.
- **9 weeks** – The baby sucks its thumb
- **10 weeks** – The baby has fingerprints. The very thing that distinguishes one human being from another human being is detectable at 10 weeks.
- **12 weeks** – The baby has taste buds. Females exhibit rapid jaw movements that surpass their male counterparts. You know what, that never stops either. Just joking!!

Now understand that all of that happens early in the very first trimester. Pregnancy is divided into three trimesters -- essentially three, three-month periods. At five months -- that's during the second trimester -- survival outside the womb is possible. Wow, that is awesome, isn't it!!!

You know I've got to tell you a funny story about how my mother and father found out that I was on the way. My parents kept this a secret from me until my sister told me just a few years ago. Now to set this story up I have to tell you that I have a brother who is 17 years older than I am and I have a sister that is 12 years older than I am. So my mom and dad thought they were finished having babies. I was not planned. I tell everyone that God was the only one who wanted me because my parents thought they were through having children. But when my mother went to the doctor to find out if she was pregnant, she came out of the doctor's office, got in the car and my father said "Well?" My mother just bent over crying uncontrollably. My father, in a fit of frustration, threw the car in reverse, squealed the tires and exclaimed, "Well it's not mine!" Of course you can't look at me without knowing that I am my father's son. Oh that's a funny story but it wouldn't have been so funny if my mother and father who didn't want me had aborted me.

[Pause]

Now if you have small children with you this morning I want you to know the seriousness of today's subject. If you are afraid of what they might hear then I advise you to leave now.

Listen to me closely this morning, don't turn a deaf ear or just get mad at me. I have struggled over this sermon more than any I have ever preached. But this is one of the most important sermons I have ever preached. God forgive me because I haven't preached it sooner but I didn't want to be identified as one of those abortion fanatics who bomb abortion clinics or who drive around town with pictures of aborted babies pasted on their car. I didn't want to be associated with those types of people. And granted, I still do not want to be associated with them. But I want you to know that today, I repent of my sin of silence. I must and the church must speak out about this issue.

Do you know that 20 percent of my generation has been aborted? One out of five babies from my generation were aborted before they were born. This past week, our nation mourned the terrible tragedy of 9/11 where over 3,000 American's died needlessly. But who mourns the 4,000 babies that are aborted each and every day in America? Yes, every day, 4,000 babies are aborted in America. That's 1.4 million a year.

- **Who's having abortions (age)?**  
Fifty-two percent of women obtaining abortions in the U.S. are younger than 25. Women aged 20-

24 obtain 32 percent of all abortions. Teenagers obtain 20 percent and girls under 15 account for 1.2 percent.

- **Who's having abortions (marital status)?**

Never-married women account for 64.4 percent of all abortions. Do you see that you cannot cover over one sin by another sin? Married women account for 18.4 percent of all abortions and divorced women obtain 9.4 percent.

- **Who's having abortions (religion)?**

Women identifying themselves as protestant Christians obtain 37.4 percent of all abortions in the U.S.; Catholic women account for 31.3 percent; Jewish women account for 1.3 percent; and women with no religious affiliation obtain 23.7 percent of all abortions. 18 percent of all abortions are performed on women who identify themselves as "Born-again/Evangelical".

- **Why women have abortions**

One percent of all abortions occur because of rape or incest; 6 percent of abortions occur because of potential health problems regarding either the mother or child, and 93 percent of all abortions occur for social reasons (the child is unwanted or inconvenient).

- **At what gestational ages are abortions performed?**

52 percent of all abortions occur before the ninth week of pregnancy, (This is after the baby already has a heartbeat, complex brain waves, hands, feet, arms, legs and all major organs. Doctors are telling young girls that if they abort in the first trimester, all they are doing is getting rid of blood and tissue. That's a lie. Twenty-five percent happen between the ninth and 10th week -- this is after the baby has fingerprints. Twelve percent happen between the 11th and 12th week when the baby has taste buds. Six percent happen between the 13th and 15th week; 4 percent happen between the 16th and 20th week, and 1 percent of all abortions (16,450 per year) happen after the 20th week of pregnancy, when the baby could survive outside the mother's womb.

I asked you who is mourning the death of these babies. Well, I believe the mothers mourn them. I don't believe that you can abort a baby and not hurt to the depths of your being over it. Here are a few of the testimonies that I found online from mothers who aborted their babies.

[It might be more effective to have a several females, not visible to the congregation, read these testimonies than for you to read them.]

*"I had an abortion five years ago. It haunts me every day. I wish I could go back...If I had any idea what the horrific process of abortion really meant for the baby inside me, I would never have done it. The doctor just said it's a tiny lump of tissue -- no feeling, no brain. He was a liar! They do have a brain, they are living human beings, and it's MURDER to take their life -- at any stage of pregnancy... Please share with young women the realities of abortion. You can make a difference in someone's life! I applaud your efforts in this web site, and I hope that we all succeed in outlawing abortion in the very near future."*

*"I am 22 years old, and I got pregnant at the age of 20. I was raised in a Christian home, went to a Christian college, and opposed abortion to every degree. When I became pregnant, abortion "seemed" like the only option, but as time went by, I put the abortion in the back of my mind because I dearly loved my little, innocent child... I talked to my child, named my child, and tried to make the father bond with it also. I put the abortion off until the last possible week, my 19th week of pregnancy. By this time the abortion cost \$1,300 that I did not have. I didn't have the money for anesthesia and I had to stay awake for the 15*

*minute, very painful and eye-opening experience... There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about my baby and wish things could be changed somehow... I want to reach out and tell women the horror I had to live through, to somehow mend what I've done if just a little bit."*

*"I had an abortion when I was 16 years old without my parents knowing about it. I never got over it. The grief I felt through my life was unbearable. I had five more children to try and fill the void I was feeling, but it still didn't go away. If I didn't have an abortion my child would be 16 yrs old this year, and even though I have five beautiful children, I think about her every single day, I think about what she would have looked like, I cry for her... If I had known then what I know now I would never have had an abortion. I was never offered any counseling, just given a date and told to turn up. In New Zealand where I live we just have to see our school counselor and they arrange it and they don't have to inform our parents, I was 16 for goodness sake. I had pressure from my boyfriend to get an abortion and he paid for it. (Think about it, he paid someone to murder our child). My parents dropped me at school, I bused into town where I met my boyfriend, he drove me to the clinic, and then I had the abortion all while I was in my school uniform. I went home and pretended that nothing ever happened!!! At the time, I must have suffered some sort of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome; I was just numb -- so numb. Today I have begun to grieve my loss. My faith also helps me knowing that God has forgiven me and the fact that I will see my child in heaven keeps me going, although it has taken a long time and a lot of work on myself to get to this point. I held on to such guilt for so long. I am grateful that I can inform other young ladies when they are contemplating abortion or the truth about abortion."*

*"I have two children and one dead... murdered by me through abortion. Had it been illegal, I would have three graduations to attend, three weddings to plan and millions of hugs, kisses and cherished moments. For 15 years I lived with the guilt of what I had done. If not for the forgiveness of Christ, I would still be suffering from alcoholism, depression and insurmountable guilt and mourning."*

Praise the Lord these last two women found the forgiveness and grace of Christ in their lives. Please understand this sermon today is not to condemn those who have had abortions. John 3:17 says "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." The purpose of this sermon is to stop abortions from happening in the future. If one woman who is contemplating or will one day contemplate abortion decides to have her baby, then this sermon has been successful.

You see the church has remained silent all too long about this issue. We are responsible to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. Let us not remain silent any longer.

One final thing I must say. I do not know if any here today have personally had an abortion but statistics would lead me to believe that it's pretty certain that there are. I'm sure this sermon has brought the guilt of your abortion to the surface this morning. That has never been my intent. In fact, it is really quite the opposite. I want you to know that God still loves you and this church still loves you. We want you to work through the pain and guilt you have. I would be glad to sit down and talk with you about the healing and forgiveness of God in your life. I will not judge you or condemn you. I want you to know the freedom found in the forgiveness of Christ. The power that's in the blood of Christ is found in the fact that it covers all sin without any exceptions. Praise the Lord!

#### Disclosure

Information for this sermon was gathered from the Video "The Biology of Prenatal Development" by National Geographic & from the website [www.abortionno.org](http://www.abortionno.org). Please be advised this website is extremely graphic. I do not agree with or condone their graphic nature, but some of their information was helpful to my sermon prep. There is no copyright on this sermon so feel free to use it in any way the Lord leads.