

## **The Importance of Mothers: The Sanctity of Life**

**Good morning!** Especially to all the wonderful moms here today. We are so glad that you were able to join us this morning as part of your special day. I trust that your families have something nice planned for you today. We do have a special gift for you as well that you can pick up outside as you leave today. Just a little something to add to your day.

We are going to take a short interlude this week from our study in 2 Corinthians but Pastor Brent will be right back into it next week.

This morning I want to spend some time in God's word to study some of the things that the bible has to say regarding the absolute importance of mothers as well as what God has to say regarding the sanctity of life. **(Expand)**

- A blessing
- Challenge
- Hopefully change lives
- Excited but I may get broken up and I apologize ahead of time
- Moms
- New ministry

### **PRAY**

Life does not come from nothing. It takes life to create life. The bible tells us in:

#### **SLIDE**

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

So right from the start, God, who is eternal and has always been alive, created life from **His** own life. He then gave mankind the life creating components built in to continue the process of **life creating life**. When does life begin? Isn't that seemingly the question that has been asked for the last few decades. It really is though, a pretty silly question. Both the egg and the sperm must be alive for any new life to be generated from the collision of the two. The next thing we know for a fact is that once life is created, it is alive, there is no period from that miraculous moment on, when that life is not alive.

That truly is a miraculous moment! Through God's awesome design, a man and a woman can create a new life. I thank God that He has made known through science (because all true science belongs to and comes from God) we know now,

the technology exists that shows us this life right from the very beginning seconds. A couple of verses later we see...

**ADD TO ABOVE SLIDE**

Genesis 1:31

31 Then God saw **everything** that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God was pleased with His work, He looked upon what He had created and **indeed it was very good!** God had made no mistakes, there were no flaws in what He had made. We read a little farther along

**ADD TO ABOVE SLIDE**

Genesis 3:20

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

God created moms! He created motherhood and designed it to be the most important and the most influential earthly relationship that there could ever be. Everyone in this room is here because they have or had a mother. Now some would argue that they had a lousy mom, and some would say that they had the best mom on the planet, but the fact is that whether for good or bad, your mom had a most significant influence on your life. The reason for that is because God designed it that way. Now this is definitely not politically correct, but the biblical fact is that God designed the woman, once there are children in the marriage, to be in the home raising and teaching them in the scripture and in how to become respectable adults.

**SLIDE**

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

18 "Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 19 You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 20 And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.

These are not suggestions being made. God says **shall** 4 times here. These are commands that the parent is to raise the children in these ways. I love the way that God is though, He always follows up His commands with the promises of His treasures for obedience. He says if you follow these commands, you and your children's days will be multiplied in the land. There are blessings for obedience to God's word. The blessings are that you get to live the life that He has available for you. Because like any good father, He wants the very best for you and if we follow His plan, that is exactly what we will get. The very best life we could live.

These verses presuppose that the father of the home is out doing whatever he is working at to care for and to maintain the needs of his family. So that leaves mom at home to accomplish the task of raising and caring for the children, and it is a task to say the least.

It makes me so angry when our culture demeans the role and the importance of Mothers. They scoff at the idea that there could be some kind of fulfillment or gratification in the raising of their own children. In too many homes these days kids are seen as a necessary obligation to fit in but definitely not important enough to be a part of molding and shaping their lives. Society today would tell us that it is the government's responsibility to raise our kids. Believe me, that is just what Satan wants. We see daily the result of that thinking, kids today are struggling, they are given bad direction in every area of their lives and we see the culture trying to get hold of them earlier and earlier all the time. There has never been a time in history that the family unit has been under more of an attack than it is right now. Satan wants nothing more than to destroy the family. I thank God that more and more people are waking up to the fact that we, as parents and grandparents, need to be invested in the lives of our children. There is no one that plays a bigger role in this than **Mom**.

Paul reminds us of the importance of mom in the raising of a child when says in his letter to Timothy;

### SLIDE

2 Tim. 1:3-7

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Paul was encouraging Timothy with this his last letter.

(last recorded letter we know of. Written from a Roman prison where Paul would soon be executed)

The days were getting harder and there was much persecution for the followers of Jesus. Paul was writing this letter as an encouragement for his son in the Lord. I really love the way that he does this, first by reminding Timothy that he is in Paul's prayers continually, and then he tells Timothy to remember the Godly heritage that he has been blessed with. The bible tells us in Acts that Timothy's father was a Greek and we do not know whether he was a believer or not. We do know that both Timothy's mother and grandmother were believers and had taught Timothy the scriptures from a very early age. Paul says later in the letter in:

Add to above slide

2 Timothy 3:14-15

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, **15** and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

So we know that as a child Timothy sat at the feet of his grandma and his mom learning the ancient scriptures and prophetic writings of the old testament. It was the old testament we know, because the new testament had yet to be written. As Timothy grew, he had all of these things tucked away in his heart and mind and when he heard the words of Paul speaking of Jesus and how He had been the fulfillment of these old testament scriptures, he believed and was born again in Christ.

H.A. Ironside said; (SLIDE)

Grace is not inherited. It is not necessarily true that because your parents are Christians you will be saved. But unless a spirit of rebellion is developed against the things of God, the children will follow on in the steps of godly parents and be led on in the ways of God. As Christian parents we have a right to expect that our children will be saved if we bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. **But we need to be careful that we walk before them so that they may see in us just what a Christian ought to be.**

H.A. Ironside

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

We as parents (because dads play a vital role in the raising of children as well, as the head of the home they need to be that picture of the love and care of Jesus but we can save that for father's day) we have a God given obligation to teach our children, in all of the things that will help them to grow up as good, reasonable and dependable people absolutely, but even more importantly in the truths of scripture and in God's eternal plan for their lives. There is no one more suited to do this than Mom. Science tells us that the most formative years for a child are between the ages 0-12. Who do you want to be the greatest influence on your child during those years? The government? The school system? The village? Or do you want Mom to be that great influence?

You see, the thing is whether you mean to or not, you are that influence. Our kids inherently want to be like mom and dad. They are watching you, and their love and admiration is for you. Kids have a built-in desire to forgive almost anything

for mom and dad. There is always opportunity to make things right for your relationship with your kids. They love you so much that they naturally want to be, “just like you”. That is why today, we are celebrating our moms and proclaiming that motherhood is a gift not to be taken for granted or worse, wasted.

### CHANGE TO LOVE LIFE SLIDE

And that brings me to the second portion of my message today. This is something that I am very passionate about and this is where hopefully I can help you get passionate about it as well. We are going to talk for the next few minutes about the topic of abortion and the crushing effect it is having on women and girls across this country.

Now maybe some of you are thinking oh man, I knew we should have just taken mom out to brunch today, why are we talking about this here? This is too political. Let me just say that the problem regarding the abortion issue is not the presence of darkness, **the problem is the absence of light**. God has called us as His church to be salt and light in this world and we can't be that light if we don't shine it into the darkness. Let me just say as well before I get any further into this, that I am not going to be talking about protesting on the street or loudly standing and calling attention to this issue, what I am going to be talking about is what we as a church can do to address the hurt, the shame, the pain, the confusion and the need for the healing and the help that only the gospel of Jesus Christ can provide for women and girls who are struggling right now with an unplanned pregnancy, or a past abortion. Some of whom may be right here in our church.

Church, I believe that there is no darker issue in our world today than the mass murder of innocent unborn life. This is **not** a political issue; it is a **love** issue.

When asked by a scribe in Mark chapter 12, Teacher, what is the greatest commandment? Jesus answered.

### SLIDE

Mark 12:29-31

**29**... “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. **30** And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. **31** And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Church, this morning if we love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind, how can we not want to reach out and help our neighbor.

In Luke chapter 10 starting at verse 25 we read:

Luke 10:25-37

**25** And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

**26** He said to him, “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?”

**27** So he answered and said, “ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

**28** And He said to him, “You have answered rightly; do this and you will live.”

**29** But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

**30** Then Jesus answered and said: “A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. **31** Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came, and looked, and passed by on the other side. **33** But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. **34** So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.’ **36** So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?”

**37** And he said, “He who showed mercy on him.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

So, who I am asking you is our neighbor? Isn't it the wounded and needy all around us? Those to whom we can help by telling them of the love, forgiveness, peace, and restoration that is found in the gospel of Jesus and the living out of the example set for us by Jesus. And who is a better example of wounded and needy than a woman or girl with an unplanned pregnancy who is looking for the answer to what do I do now? **Is it** God's love in us that would shame that girl or turn and walk the other way from the woman that so desperately needs an answer. So desperate much of the time and so guilt ridden that she would rather run to an abortion center than to run to a church and ask for help.

What I am suggesting to you today is that we stand as a church body united, together and be the answer that these women need.

Through the years that Love Life has been operating it has come to light that about 40% of the women that were having abortions said that they were regularly (at least once a month) attending a church. But for the reasons I talked about before, guilt, shame and fear they chose to run to the abortion provider instead of running to the church.

What does this tell us? Well one thing it tells us is that the voice of the culture seems to be winning. The voice that would say to the woman, this isn't even a baby, it's just a clump of cells. Get rid of it, your life will be ruined if you don't. you don't have to tell anyone, no one will ever have to know. But what does God say?

**SLIDE**

Micah 6:7-8

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

**SLIDE**

Psalms 139:13-16

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.

**SLIDE**

Jeremiah 1:4-5

4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 5 "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; Before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Has anyone anywhere ever seen a woman post on social media, "I am so excited and happy, I am going to have a clump of cells."

No, because everyone knows, no matter what lies they tell themselves that the life growing inside you is a baby. A baby that is known by God and loved by God.

So, we need to be a stronger voice than the culture. Stronger by our actions toward the women we meet in our lives that are going through this struggle. We need to be the understanding, caring, loving body of Christ that will reach out and say let us be a help to you. We will help meet your physical and financial needs, we will find you a place to live, we can get your car fixed, we can get you diapers and food. We can do whatever it takes to help you as you choose to give your baby life!

You see today we are starting our baby bottle campaign again in partnership with the Advocate care centers and that is a wonderful thing. It allows them to fund and facilitate many fantastic programs that help these young women, and we are blessed to be a part of that.

But too often we just put money towards a good program and think there, I did my part. Yes, that is a good thing to do, and I do hope that we break our record from last year in fund raising for this group. But what I am talking about today is so much more than that.

Love Life is a group that was born in 2012 in Charlotte N. Carolina by a young believer named Justin Reeder. He is a business owner and an entrepreneur who was taken by two of his friends to an abortion clinic. He saw there what he never knew was happening right across from one of his own businesses. His heart was engaged by the Holy Spirit, and he determined that he wanted to help solve the abortion issue in his area. He came up with a strategy and founded the organization called Love Life. The organization is now in 14 states and has over 800 churches working alongside, and it is still growing trying to tackle this issue. A young woman who goes to this church came to the elder group and talk to us about Love Life And to ask us if as a church we would be interested in becoming a House of Refuge. We all thought that it was a wonderful idea and wanted to become a part of it.

I have to admit that the Lord through the Holy Spirit has put this ministry deep in my heart and I feel a connection to it that I can't resist, nor do I want to. This is an amazing opportunity for Riverside, we would even be the very first church in Canada to become a House of refuge.

There are some things that love life does in the U.S. that we are unable to do here in Canada or at best we have to alter considerably in order to do some of those things. The biggest thing that we are not able to do here is the sidewalk ministry that they are free to do in the United states. They have teams that quietly and respectfully engage with the women and sometimes the men that are bringing their girlfriends to the clinics. They speak to them about the alternatives that are available rather than abortion. I see emails weekly of the stories from these sidewalk ministries That melt my heart. So many of these women say that they were looking for a way out a way out of this choice and if it hadn't been for the people from love life on the sidewalk that day, they wouldn't have known that there was a choice to be made.

There is an average of about 20 lives per week that are saved directly from these sidewalk ministries.

Now unfortunately we are greatly restricted from doing this in Canada we are restricted and bound by laws that say we can't come within 50 meters of an abortion provider, or to speak to anyone going into or out of an abortion center without risking arrest. They do have other ministries that we can participate in here and some that need to be adapted for Canadian law but there is absolutely no reason that we cannot become a House of refuge.

I am going to read a statement in a minute that will lay out exactly what a House of Refuge is and what we are committing to. We will commit to reading this statement twice a year to remind people that we stand by it. Pastor Brent and I along with all of the other pastors and elders are in complete agreement with this statement and we trust that as a church that is part of the body of Jesus Christ that you all will agree with it as well.



## The House of Refuge Statement

Riverside Calvary Chapel is a House of refuge; This applies to everyone in this church or people you know that need a place of refuge.

### **Here is what we believe:**

if you find yourself in an unplanned pregnancy, please know that being pregnant is not a sin, and the child you carry is not a punishment; it is a blessing. God is knitting this child in your womb. You may have made a sinful decision that led to this pregnancy, or you may have even been sinned against, but we want you to know that you are loved, and we will do whatever it takes to help you carry and care for this precious child before and after birth.

**We can never support or encourage a woman to have an abortion because this child you carry is made in the image of God and is intrinsically valuable and loved by God. You need to know how we will respond.**

### **Here's what we won't do:**

This church family will not gossip about you, shame you, or abandon you. This is a House of Refuge, and we will not allow for the family of God to harm one another with words or actions contrary to the love of God as revealed in his word.

### **Here is what we will do:**

We will do everything in our power to remove whatever obstacles may stand in the way of you having this child. There are people in this church ready to mentor you, throw you a baby shower, and to connect you with resources both inside and outside of our church. Resources such as local pregnancy care centres, and if required, adoption agencies.

We will also hold men accountable for living out their calling to provide and protect women and children.

Finally, if you have ever had an abortion in your past, we want you to know that abortion is **not** an unforgivable sin. Whoever confesses and forsakes their sins finds both forgiveness and mercy. If you have never gone through a post abortion Bible study, we will be happy to connect you to one so that you can walk in complete healing and freedom.

This last part is something that needs to be stressed so strong. The devil is such a liar, he would have you to believe that there is only shame, regret and condemnation and that no one could possibly understand or forgive you for having an abortion.

That is such a LIE. He would use the same lie in order to get you to have an abortion and the exact same lie after to bring on guilt.

When we as the body of Christ bring the gospel of salvation and healing we bring the truth to shine the light of Jesus on the lie.

The bible tells us in Romans 8:1 - there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. And as we talked about a couple of weeks ago, 1 John 1:9 tells us: if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus knows how you feel, He understands, and He cares. Hebrews 4:15 says: for we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. And we as a church body will follow His example to love, care and forgive anyone who has been through this trauma.

So, there it is. This is something I believe God is calling us to do as a church. We are in a war for the lives of babies and moms in this country. It is a spiritual war, and we know that because it is evil. This is a plan directly from the pit of hell that would destroy lives and families inside and outside the church all across this nation. What does the bible say about fighting spiritual warfare?

#### SLIDE

Ephesians 6:12-13

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

We need to **stand**. The first way we stand is to pray! We need to be in prayer on a constant basis regarding this issue. I would challenge you again, to set aside a day or part of a day in fasting and prayer weekly. I would ask you to pray about what God would specifically have YOU to do to play an active role in our Riverside Calvary Chapel House of Refuge.

Some of the needs would be; Mentors, That would be seasoned Godly women that would walk alongside a girl or a woman that would come to us for help. Some needs are just practical, things like providing rides to and from care centers or clinics. Providing car repairs if needed, groceries, diapers, maybe finding housing or some other very practical need. There are so many ways that we can act as a hand or a foot or an or an ear in the body of Christ. There is no reason that we should not stand as a church and do whatever we possibly can to prevent a baby from being killed and a mother's life from being ruined.

I want to thank all of you today for being here and for listening to this message. I pray that the Lord by the power of His Holy Spirit will instill a drive in you to act upon what you heard here today. And if God put on your heart something that

you want to be involved in you can contact myself or Vicky Kolbilky who has said that she will stand as our church representee to help coordinate training and volunteers. You will find her email in the church directory and mine is on the Riverside website.

I just want to leave you with one more verse and I would ask the guys at the back to please leave it on the screen for a couple of minutes.

**Proverbs 31:8**

**8 Open your mouth for the speechless,  
In the cause of all who are appointed to die.**

**What would God have you to do?**

**PRAY**