



## Forgiveness and hope

There is no sin, including abortion, that is so great that God's grace is not greater still. Ministering to those who have had an abortion should be a pastoral concern for every church leader. Speaking against abortion does not turn people away from the gospel: it invites them to embrace it. Exposing sin brings to mind the need for a savior. Talking about it can open the door to healing. "Speak the truth in love." The gospel is good news. Abortion is no match for the grace of God. Jesus promises not just to forgive, but to restore.<sup>2</sup> This is not a message to hide from those who have been wounded.

Is the gospel for everyone? Or is it only for those who are conveniently loved and protected? "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute" (*Proverbs 31:8*).



## Character of Our Congregations

Christians have abortions at alarming rates.

When you speak about abortion from the pulpit, always remember that many people listening may have had an abortion or be close to someone who has. Speak the truth with compassion.

### ***Sing a Little Louder.***

*A man living in Germany during the Nazi Holocaust recounts his experience of attending a church which a train passed regularly carrying captive Jews to concentration camps. Each time the train passed, the congregation decided to sing hymns in order to keep from being so disturbed by the Jews' cries.*

*"By the time the train came rumbling past the church yard, we were singing at the top of our voices. If some of the screams reached our ears, we'd just sing a little louder until we could hear them no more. ... I can still hear them crying out for help. God forgive all of us who called ourselves Christians yet did nothing to intervene."*

Our nation faces a new holocaust in the age of abortion, and our churches must refuse to be silent. We are obligated to live out the Christian faith in practice by praying and acting on behalf of the vulnerable unborn.