

In support of HCR 5004: Jarad Garren, pastor of Crestview Christian Church in Manhattan, KS, is giving oral and written testimony for the Federal and State Affairs Committee.

While abortion is a topic that is often used for political leverage, I firmly believe that it isn't a political issue. I'm here today because I very much believe that the lives of our unborn Kansans are spiritual and theological issues.

When you take a look at scripture from the Word of God, He makes it very clear the value of every life at any biological age. There are a few key scriptures that need to be communicated when considering decisions of life and death of the preborn.

1. **Every human life is created by God.** In Isaiah 44:24, God says, "This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the Lord, the Maker of all things." God is the creator of all things, including the preborn. God has created each and every human life.
2. **Every human life is made in the image of God.** Genesis 1:27 says as much: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Whether you believe in God or not, we are all made in likeness of Him. We are spiritual beings. We all bear the image of God. This fact gives every human life value.
3. **Every human life begins at conception.** The Lord Jesus Christ began his incarnation as an embryo, growing into a fetus, infant, child, teenager, and adult: "While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son." (Luke 2:6-7) Preborn babies are alive before birth, and this is not a thought that is uniquely Christian. Science has come a long way in the decades since abortion was formed into Kansas law. Science has only served to show the scriptures as truth. Such as the discovery that at the moment of fertilization, there is formed a completely new and unique DNA in the child... separate from the mother. This spark of life determines everything from blood type to hair color according to God's design.

When discussing important topics concerning our preborn brothers and sisters we need to keep these three foundational truths in mind. When it comes to terminating a pregnancy, we have to know that God views abortion as murder. **Abortion is the murder of a human being.** Abortion kills the youngest and most innocent citizens of Kansas... and the count is nearing a half of a million murders in the past few decades.

**So what are we to do?** I believe that Romans 5:20 points the way... it says "Where sin abounds, grace abounds more." As a state and as its leaders (myself included), we have their blood on our hands. But we have a God that offers grace in more measure than we have sin. As a state, I believe God is calling us to His grace and forgiveness. He desires us to seek repentance and end slaughter of thousands that will be murdered this year. While it's not the only thing we need to do in seeking God's will for our state, I believe that HCR 5004 is a step in God's direction.