



ProGrace Transform

Theological Overview

PROGRACE has created a third option for approaching abortion that values the woman and child equally and equips Christians with this new way to think, talk, and engage.

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW RESPONSE?

In our culture, we have accepted a false binary around abortion that says we have to be either for the child (Pro-Life) or for the woman (Pro-Choice). As Christians, we are called to take on a Christ-like perspective. There are many instances in the Gospels where Jesus addresses two conflicting ideas (usually meant to trap him) with a third response that reflects the Kingdom of God he proclaims:

- Do we pay taxes to Rome or not? (Mark 12: 13-17)
- Do we stone this woman or not? (John 8:2-11)
- Who sinned to make this man blind, his parents or him? (John 9:2-3)
- Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not? (Luke 14: 1-4)

The words “Pro-Life” and “Pro-Choice” only emphasize the two conflicting ideas from the political divide; do we value the woman *or* the child? As we shift our mindsets around abortion to value the woman *and* the child equally, as God does, we need new language to describe this approach and reflect God’s heart.

WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL BASIS BEHIND PROGRACE?

The **PROGRACE** approach is based on these truths:

God's Design of Pregnancy – Our creative God could have chosen to bring life into the world in any way He wanted, but His design is pregnancy. There is nothing else like it. The lives of two people are intertwined so that anything you do to one impacts the other. Because of this, He has made it impossible for us to try to help (or “save”) one while ignoring the other. It won't ever work. God loves and values the woman and child equally, and He calls His people to work for the dignity and welfare of both.

God's Path for Transformation – God's path to transformation is always grace. Jesus died for us “while we were yet sinners” and gave us his righteousness. In the story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8, Jesus first levels the playing field by reminding the Pharisees of their own sin. Then His first words to the woman are “no condemnation.” Too often, the Church's response to a woman facing an unintended pregnancy is judgment, but only grace brings true transformation for any of us. God calls us to extend the same grace we've received to those impacted by unintended pregnancy and abortion.

The Church as God's Solution – God in His power can bring peace and justice to the world He created in a moment, but He chooses the long arc of working through His Church, who he calls the “Body of Christ.” When we as Christians are saddened and angered by what we see in our world, we are not called to hide behind a political platform but to be the hands and feet of Christ. In His many encounters with people labeled “sinners” by his culture, Jesus exemplifies the acceptance, support, and grace we all need. We are called to offer the same and, in doing so, proclaim the Kingdom of God.

EQUIPPING YOUR CHURCH WITH A PROGRACE RESPONSE!

We invite you to join the **PROGRACE** movement and journey with us toward a Christ-like response to abortion in your community.

For more information and resources, visit www.prograce.org.