

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

www.twojourneys.org

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at twojourneys.org

The Abortion Lie Meets Truth Incarnate

John 8

I. The Spirit of the Age

A. Postmodernism

Josh McDowell & Bob Hostetler offer the following definition of postmodernism: “A worldview characterized by the belief that truth doesn’t exist in any objective sense but is created rather than discovered.” Truth is “created by the specific culture and exists only in that culture. Therefore, any system or statement that tries to communicate truth is a power play, an effort to dominate other cultures

1. Mental confusion on absolute truth

Josh McDowell said recently that most evangelical Christian youth in the United States no longer believe in “absolute truth.”

“In 1991, 52 percent of our born again church kids said there is no absolute truth. In 1994, 62 percent said there is no absolute truth. In 1999, 78 percent of born again church kids said there is no absolute truth. In 2002, 91 percent of our born again church kids said there is no absolute truth.”

2. People speak of “truth for you” and “truth for me”

3. Clearest when it comes to abortion

In a 1992 Command Research poll, for example, 73 percent stated that the fetus is a human baby and "killing is wrong." Nearly three fourths of those same people, however, said that society should not have a say in whether a woman should have an abortion or not.

37 states have fetal homicide laws, but all 37 of those states allow abortion too!

In the same hospital, some doctors can be performing an abortion on a baby whose fetal weight and viability is greater than another baby, born prematurely to loving parents, who hire doctors to do astonishing things to save their baby and enable that baby to grow normally

Legislators can speak of being personally opposed to abortion, but publicly obligated to uphold abortion laws for others

Clinton, “safe, legal, funded, and RARE...” the word “rare” makes no sense whatsoever if the preborn is not truly a human being!!!

B. Diametrically Opposed World Views

1. Many speak of a “culture war”...
2. Actually it’s more of a “truth war”... or better, a clash of world views
3. What is a “worldview”?

Ron Auvil: A brief explanation would see worldview as **a comprehensive sense of personal relationship to the world surrounding us**. Simply it is a sense of destiny and purpose.

There are many worldviews confronting people in the world today. Humanism, for example, is a worldview which states that the universe is centered upon man and his achievements. Marxism is a worldview which believes in the inevitability of class struggle based on economic factors.

Major world religions are based upon worldviews. Hinduism is a worldview based upon many deities, and endless life-death cycle and inevitability of human suffering. Islam, on the other hand, is a religion of martyrdom, conquests by force, and police state modesty.

4. Worldview applied to abortion

Fred Hutchison:

Debates about abortion are often very heated because they involve a head-on collision of world views. Abortion cannot be supported within the internal logic of the Christian world view. Laws against abortion cannot be supported within the internal logic of the world view of liberal postmodernism. Opponents of abortion know that they are defending unborn babies but may not be aware that they are also defending the Christian world view. Supporters of legalized abortion know that they are defending a "woman's right to choose" but may not be aware that they are also defending the postmodern world view.

David Horowitz, author of *Radical Son* and *Left Illusions*. He was once a leader of the New Left but got disillusioned with Marxism in the seventies and suffered from ten years of depression, before he reemerged as a conservative.

Horowitz said, "I am persuaded that a lie grounded in human desire is too powerful for reason to penetrate."

This is especially true if the person is a narcissist. Thus, he explains why the left fights so hard to protect its irrational myths. It seems to me this is especially true about abortion. The desire for sexual promiscuity without consequences is a fantasy of hedonism and narcissism. Abortion terminates the "consequences" and thus offers to the narcissist a solution to his desire to dispense with the inconvenient consequences of promiscuous sex. But one has to deny that a dead baby is a consequence of moral significance in order to get what he wants

without accountability. It threatens his world view when his actions and his denials are brought under moral scrutiny. Therefore, he must discredit all such who make such threats

If you believe that 1) man is a created being and has a nature determined by an intelligent and purposeful design, and 2) man is an immortal spirit being which inhabits a mortal body, and 3) there is a universal moral law governing life, marriage, sexual activity, and the family you will probably oppose abortion.

If you believe that 1) man has been randomly evolved and has no fixed nature or design, and 2) Man is purely a physical animal and/or a material machine, and 3) Morality is culturally and/or individually determined, or if a politically correct elite determines right and wrong, you will probably favor abortion on demand.

Here we see the Christian world view diametrically opposed to the postmodern world view on three precisely defined propositions.

- a. The origin of humanity
- b. The true nature and destiny of human beings
- c. The nature of morality

5. Post-modernism embraces toleration and relativism

- a. Postmodernism denies absolute spiritual truth
- b. Postmodernism embraces relative truth... each one of us finding our own truth
- c. It sees that we live in a pluralistic age and a world of many ideologies; the fierce holding of such ideologies has led to wars and much suffering
- d. So some people seek to eradicate such truth commitments at least in terms of the way we communicate with each other

Postmodern values:

tolerance, patience, respect for differences, a willingness to listen, the inclination to admit that one may be mistaken, the ability to reinterpret or translate one's own concerns in a way that makes them comprehensible to others, the self-imposition of restraint in order that others may "have a turn" to speak, and the disposition to express one's self honestly and sincerely

- e. Jesus didn't live like this AT ALL... He winnowed out truth and error decisively, with absolute truth

6. Postmodernism on morality

- a. Morality is defined by each person for him/herself

However, if let's say Seth decides that his morality permits him to steal Brittany's iPod, it is very likely that Brittany's morality will not allow this to be done to her. Her standard of morality considers Seth to be committing an offense. The two people are not in agreement, and they will not be reconciled until one of them surrenders. If the situation were worse, such as if Seth's morality permits him to kill one of Brittany's family members, the reconciliation would be less likely. If moral relativism were globally accepted, chaos would ensue.

b. Second option: morality is defined by each culture or society

- i) Thus a Middle-Eastern Muslim nation has the right to define its morality as it sees fit, and an atheistic European nation has the right to define its morality as it sees fit
- ii) BUT when Nazi Germany tried to do this in the 1930s and 1940s, it set up death camps the resulted in the slaughter of millions of people; when the Allied troops liberated Germany from Naziism, they shut down those death camps
- iii) Postmodernism struggles with this test case; we all feel it was right and just for the Allies to compel the German nation to alter their Aryan, nationalistic, genocidal morality

7. Postmodernism founders on abortion

- a. In the 60s, our nation embraced a sexual revolution in which individual sexual pleasure was given free reign
- b. HOWEVER this led to increased consequences... STDs and unwanted pregnancies
- c. Abortion gave people the freedom to live how they chose... but the ethic of personal freedom founders when it comes to violating someone else's civil rights

II. The God of Truth

A. The God of Truth

Isaiah 65:16 the God of truth (twice in one verse)

KJV Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

ESV Psalm 51:6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being

Psalm 119:160 All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

Isaiah 45:19 I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.

God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, is the ultimate standard of truth in the universe, and everything He says corresponds to reality

Everything opposite from Him and from what He asserts is a lie... John 8 teaches that Satan is a liar and the father of lies... and so also all non-Christians have accepted his lies and have become liars ourselves

Psalm 116:11 And in my dismay I said, "All men are liars."

B. Truth Incarnate

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

C. The Gospel of Truth: John

1. Saturated in the truth

The Greek root word for truth is "alethios"... over one quarter of all its uses in the NT are in one book... the Gospel of John... 47 times this Greek root appears; no other book in the NT uses the word "truth" or "true" more than 12 times!

Truly the Gospel of John IS the gospel of truth

2. Truth covering every topic in life

a. Judgment day

John 3:21 ... whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

b. worship

John 4:23-24 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

c. Spiritual nourishment

John 6:32-33 *Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."*

d. His own role as life-giver to the disciples

John 15:1 *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

e. The Holy Spirit's future role

John 16:13 *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth*

f. The definition of eternal life

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

g. The power of the word to sanctify us

John 17:17 *Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.*

D. The Most Significant Assertion of All

Of all these assertions, the most important one is this:

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Not merely that Jesus teaches the truth, or testifies to the truth, or knows the truth, or follows the truth or loves the truth or exemplifies the truth... yes to all of those, but much more:

JESUS IS THE TRUTH

And with that assertion, relativism and post-modernism is eternally devastated

E. The Invitation to Truth: John 18

John 18:37-38 *"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked.*

F. The Final Encounter with Truth: Revelation 20

John 5:22-23 *The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.*

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just

At the Judgment, Jesus will assess every single human being based on a TRUE record of their lives—their deeds, their words, the intentions of the heart—and based on the TRUTH of God's standards—God's Law and God's Son

There will be NO ESCAPING the truth:

G. The Chapter of Truth: John 8

1. More uses of the Greek word for truth in this one chapter than any other in the Bible
2. Eleven times it appears in this one chapter

III. Truth Incarnate Speaks the Truth

A. Assertion #1: Jesus is Only Escape from the Darkness (vs. 12)

John 8:12 Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

1. Our post-modern mishmash is a Valley of Darkness... and walking in a valley in the darkness is eternally dangerous
2. Light = truth... the identification of what aligns with reality

ESV Psalm 43:3 Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

Ephesians 5:13-14 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible.

- a. We can see that that person over there is a woman with a newborn infant in her arms, not three teen-aged boys with baseball caps on
- b. We can see that it is raining and that the roads are slick with moisture, not hot and dry with heat vapors rising as on a desert highway
- c. We can see that the police officer is beckoning us to proceed into the intersection, not holding up his hand to stop us
- d. We can see that the cat is sleeping on the floor in the living room pathway right where we're trying to walk... the pathway is not clear
- e. Light shows us WHAT IS REAL!! And there is TRUTH in the invisible realms

3. When Jesus claims to be the “light of the world”, He is saying that only by Him can the world be seen as it REALLY is; to disbelieve Jesus and to refuse to follow Him means darkness... and that is the condition of America on the abortion issue
4. Only by following Christ can there ever be a way out of this Valley of Darkness
5. This “following” of Christ is COSTLY WHOLEHEARTED OBEDIENCE as disciples... not merely hangers on

John 8:30-31 As he was saying these things, many believed in him. ³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples

6. It is not enough to be merely a nominal Christian... our abortion-tolerant nation is FULL of nominal Christians... no, we have to “abide in His word” or “continue in His teaching”... i.e. walking in the Light as He is in the Light

B. Assertion #2: Unless You Believe that Christ is God, You Will Perish Eternally (vs. 24)

John 8:24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.

1. Key insight: the Greek literally says “unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins”
2. Just prior to this, Jesus claims to have descended from heaven, that unlike them, He didn’t originate from the earth

John 8:23 He said to them, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

3. At the end of the chapter, Jesus will make a clear claim to deity

John 8:56-59 Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him

4. All Jews knew that this was God’s special covenant name, revealed to Moses from the flames of the burning bush

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

5. What Jesus is saying is simply this: YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT I AM GOD IN THE FLESH or you will die in your sins
6. “Die in your sins” = be condemned eternally to hell
7. Post-modern America HATES this ultimate claim of Jesus—that refusal to believe in His deity results in burning in hell forever and ever
8. But this is precisely what Jesus is teaching here
 - a. It is not enough to believe that Jesus is a good moral teacher
 - b. It is not enough to believe that Jesus is merely a prophet
 - c. It is not enough to believe, like the Jehovah’s Witnesses do, that Jesus is a god (a powerful created being) but not the one true God
 - d. Jesus is claiming absolute deity here
9. This truth claim is even more hated than the claim that the fetus is truly a human being and that we MUST NOT kill it through abortion

Illus. Recently Brit Hume made the statement that if Tiger Woods wanted to find forgiveness and redemption, he would have to become a Christian; I read it in a Washington Post website, and the responses from the readers were STUNNINGLY BLASPHEMOUS... mocking Jesus, calling Him “Jeebus” and saying “No wonder the Christians were thrown to the lions... I wish we could do it again”

Thus we see the murderous intentions of the unbelievers... more on that again in a moment

C. Assertion #3: Judgment is Coming, Even if It Doesn’t Seem So (vs. 26)

John 8:26 "I have much to say in judgment of you."

John 8:15-16 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. ¹⁶ But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

John 8:50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

1. Judgment Day is a central theme in the Bible
 - a. There is a day coming when all people will have to give an account of themselves to God
 - b. That is the day of Reckoning when God will address all the injustices of the world

- c. Abortion may be the greatest injustice in the world today human to human
- d. God's pattern is to keep a careful record of all things said and done, and of all the inclinations of the heart, and to judge people for those things at the end of the world

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

- 2. Judgment Day comes, though people don't expect it or look for it
- 3. Jesus has already mentioned His own role as Judge of all the Earth

John 5:22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son

- 4. In this text, Jesus ominously says that He Himself will speak MANY THINGS in judgment against those who have not believed in Him

John 8:26 "I have much to say in judgment of you."

- 5. However, notice that He does NOT say them NOW... there is still time to repent... but that also may give people a sense that God doesn't care about their sins
- 6. So it is with abortion... people may think that because God is seemingly silent, that He doesn't care about the plight of the poorest and neediest people in our society—babies that are being aborted; they own nothing, they have no one who can rescue them, their screams are silent and inaudible... they are the weakest human beings on earth
- 7. Jesus has MUCH to say in judgment on the whole abortion industry
 - a. On Planned Parenthood, that is building the largest late-term abortion clinic in the world in Houston—78,000 square feet—that will specialize in abortions of pre-born babies up to 25 weeks old
 - b. On doctors and nurses that willingly do abortions
 - c. On legislators, politicians, and government officials that defend abortion rights and neglect the cause of the poorest and neediest people in our nation

- d. On medical equipment engineers and corporate officials who design, manufacture and sell abortion tools
- e. On pro-abortion protesters—hostile people who scream things at pro-lifers and who are some of the most hate-filled people I have ever seen in my life
- f. On men who father babies and then force the women to bear the pain of abortion
- g. On men who should care for their daughters and give them every loving support needed not to get an abortion but who fail their daughters at that key moment
- h. On women themselves who harden their hearts and get the abortions
- i. On all the sins connected with this horror of abortion, Jesus has much to say in judgment if they will not repent
- j. God's apparent silence on abortion is temporary

D. Assertion #4: The Ultimate Proof of Christ's Deity is the Cross and Empty Tomb (vs. 28)

John 8:28 So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.

1. The "lifting up" of the Son of Man is His sacrificial death on the cross
2. It is the reason why Jesus came into the world... the central work of His life
3. Jesus came to die for the great wickedness of the world... no sin is too great for Him to cleanse with His blood
4. Jesus here says that the central evidence of His identity is His death on the cross, and by implication also, His vindication by His resurrection from the dead
5. This is the central absolute truth of Christianity... the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for sin
6. This lifting up of Christ is the only hope for forgiveness for the sinners I listed a moment ago
 - a. Forgiveness for the leaders of Planned Parenthood, if they repent and trust in Christ's death for their sins and His resurrection for their eternal life
 - b. Forgiveness for the medical professionals who participate in abortions

- c. Forgiveness for the medical tool manufacturers
- d. Forgiveness for the pro-abortion politicians and government policy makers
- e. Forgiveness for the pro-abortion demonstrators
- f. Forgiveness for the men who force women to get abortions
- g. Forgiveness for the women themselves who do it

1 Timothy 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the worst.

E. Assertion #5: Sin Enslaves, Truth (Jesus) Emancipates (vs. 31-36)

John 8:32 you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:33-34 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" ³⁴ ¶ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

1. All sin has an enslaving power... in fact the greatest enslavement the world has ever known is slavery to sin
2. Sin is a vicious power, utterly cruel, a tyrant of the worst magnitude
3. The people I have listed above who sin in the area of abortion are enslaved to the world view and lifestyle that feeds the abortion machine
4. Jesus has absolute power to free sinners from the CHAINS of sin
5. Abortion is tied to the sexual revolution and the rampant sexual immorality that has afflicted our country
6. Jesus has the power to set people free from that enslavement

F. Assertion #6: The Devil is a Murderous Liar, and So Are His Children (vs. 44)

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1. The devil was a liar and a murderer from the beginning... his lies served his ultimate end desire: murdering the human race

2. He questions the word of God: “Did God really say...?” “You will NOT surely die!”
 3. He is also the FATHER of lies... setting up the whole system of lies that feed the abortion machine
 4. His children are non-Christians... we either have God as our adoptive Father or Satan as our spiritual father... non-Christians embrace Satan’s lies and inherit his lying nature... they LOVE the LIES, and actually think they are TRUE
 5. more than that, they have murder in their hearts
 6. Abortion is the unlawful killing of human beings; it is murder at the heart of it, especially when people harden their hearts and commit abortion even when they KNOW the evidence that the baby is alive and really truly a human being
 7. As I mentioned, non-Christians also display a murderous hatred for Christians who espouse absolute truths... like the Washington Post reader who wished we could still throw Christians to the lions like in the Roman days
- G. Assertion #7: People Would Rather Believe the Devil’s Lies Than Jesus’ Truth (vs. 45)

John 8:45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

1. In other words, it is specifically because tells the truth that people don’t believe Him
2. If Jesus told the lies they want to hear, they WOULD believe Him
3. So it is with the abortion machine: the lies are that we can have sexual freedom, the ability to do ANYTHING WE WANT ANYTIME WE WANT sexually and be completely free from any consequences whatsoever
4. To support that lie, they have to tell another lie: babies conceived by women and fathered by men who don’t want them, who are just following their passions and pleasures... those babies really aren’t babies at all
5. BECAUSE we tell the truth, people reject us

H. Assertion #8: Only the Children of God Can Recognize the Truth (vs. 47)

John 8:47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

The only answer to the abortion question is a spiritual renewal in which God works truth into people’s hearts

IV. Applications of Absolute Truth to Our National Tragedy

A. Come to Christ

B. As Needed, Repent of Sin Concerning Abortion

1. Sins of commission

- a. A woman who has gotten an abortion and has as yet never repented of it
- b. A man who urged a woman to get an abortion or who denied help to a woman—perhaps a daughter—for whom you were responsible
- c. A medical professional who willingly participated in abortion and has never repented of it
- d. A politician or legislator who has established wickedness as the law of the land, a governmental policy, or a military policy
- e. A pro-abortion advocate who has demonstrated for the right to abortion, or who has advocated it in private conversations, and has never repented of it

2. Sins of omission

- a. A Christian who has neglected doing anything at all on this issue that the Lord was leading you to do
- b. A Christian who should have gotten involved in a crisis pregnancy center but has
- c. A Christian who should have been more faithful in praying about the abortion issue
- d. A Christian who should have courageously spoken up for the preborn in an office conversation at the coffee machine

C. Swim in the Ocean of Grace

Romans 5:20 “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.”

1. Satan is constantly telling sinners that there is NO HOPE for their forgiveness
2. Even Christians can feel a lack of forgiveness in an issue this great
3. Jesus said “If the Son sets you free, you will be FREE INDEED...”
4. Free from everything sin does to us: the slavery of bad habits, the slavery of guilt, the slavery of bad thinking etc.

5. Jesus has power to FREE US COMPLETELY
6. Swim in the ocean of His grace
7. But then... let's get busy!

D. Embrace the Absolute Truths Jesus Teaches

1. Challenge the whole post-modern confusion... Satan has been in the business of confusing human minds from the beginning
2. Truth is truth... for everyone!! It is true in all other fields: physics, mathematics, biology... I'm sure that MIT teaches the same things in their physics classes that the Russian engineering students are learning in Moscow and the Chinese engineering students are learning in Beijing
3. Jesus is either God in the flesh or He is not; He cannot be God in the flesh for Christians but NOT God in the flesh for non-Christians
4. Preborn babies are either truly human beings or they are not
5. Let's embrace again the principle of absolute truth and reason with those who disagree

E. Be a Worldview Warrior

1. Let's also show them their inconsistencies

Four Democratic Senators (Barbara Boxer, Barbara Mikulski, Jeanne Shaheen and Kristen Gillibrand) sent a letter asking Army Secretary John McHugh to drop the ban. "We can think of no greater deterrent to women contemplating a military career than the image of a pregnant woman being severely punished for simply conceiving a child. That defies comprehension."

Did you hear the phrase "conceiving a child"??? I guess when it suits them it is a CHILD that's conceived, and when they want to abort it, they call it a fetus, or even worse, a "product of conception"

2. Read books like Randy Alcorn's "Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments"... let's not forsake the REASONING process
3. Be willing to make an argument (NOT be argumentative!!); make a case, speak the truth
4. Make Biblical arguments for the humanity of the preborn... like John the Baptist leaping for JOY in his mother's womb
5. Make biological arguments... learn about fetal development

F. Expand Your Commitment to Mercy Ministry

1. Crisis pregnancy centers: Pregnancy Support Services
2. Adoption
3. Intercessory prayer
4. Financial support
5. Political action