**Beloved Church Family,**

One of the many roles of a Pastor is to shepherd church members through ethical questions by providing biblical direction, and when called upon out of necessity or urgency, to address the church body as a whole. This is one of those times.

Missouri’s November ballot will include **Amendment 3**, ‘The *Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative’*. This devastating and dangerous attempt to change the law seeks to add language to our state Constitution repealing the restrictions surrounding abortion, and it is wrong.

Amendment 3 removes all limitations and safety measures, sanctioning abortions at all points during the pregnancy up to and including the very moment of birth. It intentionally weakens the definitions of both ‘*patient health’* and *‘healthcare provider’*, creating loopholes and making abortions even easier to access and accomplish. And it removes the requirement of parental consent for a minor to have an abortion, as well as removing parental consent for transgender-affirming care making the termination of a life and transgender surgeries/treatments the only medical procedures for which parents and guardians would have no say. If approved, the taking of unborn lives would become constitutional, meaning that no law can ever be passed to restrict abortion. This would make our State one of the most radical in the nation, and lead to the loss of millions of lives.

Scripture affirms that God is the creator of life, and all things exist and were created by His will (*Revelation 4:11*). The Bible affirms that all human life is sacred to the Creator and without exception an unborn child is a person, bearing the image of God from the very instant of conception (*Psalm 139:13–16; Luke 1:44; Genesis 1:26-27*). Jeremiah 1:5 teaches us that God knows us before He forms us in the womb. For us as believers, abortion is a matter of the life or death of a human being already made in God’s image.

Please make no mistake, this is neither a partisan nor political matter. It is a Christian matter. It is a calling for men and women to seek direction from God through his Word. It is an obligation to be obedient and protect these most defenseless and innocent lives from the horrors of abortion. And we do that as we also seek to comfort and care for those facing unimaginably difficult decisions, and bring the hope of the Gospel and the forgiveness available in Christ to those who have had or encouraged others to have an abortion when we repent and believe.

Beloved saints, I encourage you out of love for the Lord and His Word, and for the sake of millions of lives to vote ***NO on Amendment 3***. In humility and grace, urge others to do so as well by sharing God’s Word on this matter. And please, pray for the Lord’s comfort, healing, and protection.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (*Romans 15:13*).