

What was Dobbs, and why should we care?

Taking a closer look at the Supreme Court case that overturned Roe v. Wade and determining our Gospel-motivated response.

1 What was Dobbs v. Jackson all about?

Mississippi passed a law to ban abortion after 15 weeks gestation with exceptions for cases where the mother's life was at risk or in cases of poor fetal health. The Supreme Court heard the case on December 1, 2021. Their response could have struck down the Mississippi law or upheld it fully or partially. If the law was struck down, states could begin enforcing abortion restrictions before viability. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Dobbs on June 24, 2022.



2 What does this mean?



The Dobbs case decision declares that the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion; previous rulings which upheld a woman's right to abortion have been overruled. Most significantly, Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion nationwide in 1973, no longer stands. The decision whether or not to make abortion legal returns to the states, allowing each state to set its own laws in regards to abortion.

3 What should we do now that Roe is overturned?

Our for-life work is just as necessary now as it has ever been. Not only are we called to be Gospel-motivated voices in our local governments, encouraging leaders to uphold all lives, but we should also be active locally in supporting mothers experiencing surprise pregnancies. This can be done by donating to for-life organizations, volunteering at pregnancy care centers, and extending help to those in need. Whether abortion is legal or not in our state, the for-life response to unplanned pregnancy is support of the family.



How can we be Gospel-motivated voices for life?



1 Support women in need.

Get involved with crisis pregnancy centers near you. Gather donations for mothers who need help. Volunteer your time to help moms who need babysitters. Reach out to mothers who are struggling and ask how they need help.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40 (ESV)

2 Offer words of hope and healing to mothers who have had abortions.

If you know someone who has had an abortion, offer them support and remind them of Christ's love and forgiveness. Pray for them. Listen to their concerns. Invite them to church and connect them to your pastor. Remind them there is true forgiveness and healing in Jesus.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace - Ephesians 1:7 (ESV)

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)





3 Create a welcoming community.

Every child is a gift, no matter how that child came to be. Christ's death paid for all sins, and His redemption is ours by grace, not works. As members of the body of Christ, we offer that grace to others knowing that we too have sinned and are in need of forgiveness. We uphold and defend the lives of others as Christ upholds and defends ours.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (ESV)

4 Advocate for life.

Contact your local representative and encourage him or her to uphold life. Remind local and state representatives that laws are meant to protect the weak and vulnerable. Children, born and unborn, cannot defend themselves; they need to be protected. Women experiencing crisis pregnancies are also vulnerable. They need safe and supportive options rather than an abortion which can negatively impact a woman's health for life. Our laws should uphold all lives, but especially those who cannot protect themselves.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)



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