



WHAT IS PROGRACE?

ProGrace offers a third option to the abortion debate.

We equip Christians with a new response to the abortion issue, one that goes beyond political platforms to demonstrate God's heart for *both* the woman and the child.

We are building a movement of Christians who will more fully express God's heart in this issue, talk about it with grace, and create safe & welcoming places so women can have hope for their pregnancy and their future. Because when local churches facilitate communities where both women and children can thrive after an unplanned pregnancy, God can turn the tide of abortion.

WHY DO WE NEED A THIRD OPTION IN THE ABORTION DEBATE?

Currently there are only two options in the political stalemate:

- Focus primarily on the needs of the woman
- Focus primarily on the needs of the child

When people direct most of their energy toward arguing back and forth about this, they use energy and resources that could be put into creating solutions to help both women and children.

Because we haven't focused on these practical solutions, many women see only two options when faced with an unplanned pregnancy:

- Abortion
- Overwhelming struggle as a mom

But when Christians, through local churches, create a third option by:

- Focusing on both the woman and child equally
- Offering God's grace as the pathway to helping them both

Then women can begin to see *a third option*—one where they both can thrive, during and after an unplanned pregnancy.

WHAT IS THE THEOLOGICAL BASIS BEHIND PROGRACE?

ProGrace is based on the way Jesus presented a third option to the divisive options the Pharisees would put before him:

- Should we stone this woman caught in adultery or not? (John 8:2-11)
- Should we pay taxes to Caesar or not? (Matthew 22:15-22)
- Which is the greatest commandment? (Matthew 22:35-40)

Matthew 22 tells us the Pharisees specifically went out and laid plans to trap Jesus in His words. But the God of all Truth can't be trapped.

The two options around abortion posed by the political camps are similar to the questions the Pharisees asked. When people ask, "Should we focus on the needs of the woman, or on the needs of the child?" God answers back with a third option, "Yes to both!"

The ProGrace message focuses on these two truths:

God's Design of Pregnancy – God designed pregnancy in a unique way where the well-being of a woman and child are intertwined. By doing this, he has made it impossible for us to try and help one while bypassing the other. It just won't work. It isn't working in the current political stalemate. God loves and values BOTH the woman and the child—equally—and calls us to work the dignity and welfare of both.

God's Path for Transformation – The pattern of the Gospel is grace first. Jesus died for us "while we were yet sinners." He takes our sin and gives us His righteousness regardless of anything we've done. 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 unplanned pregnancy has been judgment. But none of us experience true, lasting transformation as a result of judgment. Only grace can bring that kind of transformation.

HOW PROGRACE EQUIPS CHRISTIANS TO CREATE THIS THIRD OPTION

Our training pathway equips believers to:

Think differently – through a theologically sound paradigm for viewing the issue in a new way, resolving the tension many of us feel around this issue

Talk differently – through new language that helps us build bridges in our communities, creating the reputation of being a safe place for women to come

Act differently – by equipping churches to start their own outreach program for women facing unplanned pregnancies, giving them the third option that can shift the abortion issue