Pastor Jerry Marshall	January 20, 2013
Psalm 139:13–16 (NASB) **13** For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. **14** I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; **16** Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. **Jeremiah 1:4–5 (NASB)** **4** Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, **5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." **Genesis 1:26–27 (NASB)** **26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **Genesis 9:6 (NASB)** **6** "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.	**Sanctify of Life Sunday** Abortion is the leading cause of death in the United States with approximately 1.2 million children in the womb losing their lives every year. What kind of strategy has been used which has so effectively silenced the outcry of the majority of our culture to such a blatant injustice? This morning we will consider the anatomy of legalized murder. **Step One:** _____ _____ **Step Two:** _____ _____ **Step Three:** _____ _____ **Step Four:** _____ _____

The Challenge

1. We must have an unshakeable conviction in the power of the Gospel message to do what legislation can never do and that is to transform the hearts of people. Remember, Jesus said that the heart (the place from which moral and ethical decisions are made) is the polluted wellspring from which all sins flow (Mark 7:20-23). Faith in the Gospel purifies the heart and provides the ability to have one's ethics shaped by the word of God and not by the present culture (Acts 15:9).

2. On issues such as this, the church must not allow the fallen reasoning of a fallen world to cause us to acquiesce, accommodate or sanction what God condemns (Romans 12:2; James 4:4).

3. The church must be a place of compassion, conveying the message of forgiveness to all who have sinned (Acts 10:43; Hebrews 10:16-18). There is not one sin that Jesus didn't die for. He extends forgiveness to all who repent of their sins and trust in Him for the salvation of their souls.

4. We must pray for the lost that God will open their eyes to the glorious good news of Lord's saving work. We must take opportunities to share the gospel message. Pray that God will make you sensitive to open doors for the spread of His word. Pray for those compassionate organizations that daily reach out to women who are contemplating an abortion. Volunteer to serve in those organizations in accordance with their needs and your abilities.