

# Heart Series Part Three

## **THE THIRD CHOICE** (Politics and the Kingdom)

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Review of Series**

- God created man as spirit, soul and body. The core of us is our “spirit” or “heart” and the condition of the heart defines the whole person.
- The mind justifies what the heart has chosen—we all make decisions and choices based on the affections and inclinations of our hearts.
- We proclaim God’s call to a “Kingdom-Driven Life” where the heart “seeks the Kingdom of God above everything else, trusting God for every need.”

***But what does this look like in everyday life?***

#### **B. Politics and the Kingdom**

1. In six weeks Americans will go to the polls and choose who will become the most powerful political figure on earth—the head of the free world—the President of the United States.
2. The ability to vote is an honor, a privilege and a duty.
3. To fail to vote is a sin, because God everywhere commands us to good citizenship.
4. But who am I going to vote for? How will I arrive at my decision?
5. If you’ve been listening, you know that the big issue for Christ-followers is,

***How can I align my heart so that my mind makes a choice pleasing to God?***

### **II. The Problem of Polarization**

#### **A. The Angry Climate of Division**

1. We are living in a time of dramatic *polarization* where people and groups are dividing into “camps” at war, and the gap between them is widening.

**“Polarization” means that deep divisions are developing into two opposites.**

2. To become polarized means to “break up into opposing factions or groups.”

3. In religion it means that the “religious” and the “non-religious” are becoming increasingly hostile toward each other.
4. In politics, it means that people are increasingly polarized into one of two warring “camps”, “parties” or philosophies.

### Political Polarization of Our Day

**Republican  
Conservative  
Right Wing  
McCain and Palin**

**Democrat  
Liberal  
Left Wing  
Obama and Biden**

5. I don’t know where you are in the process. But here’s a principle for anyone who wants to live a “Kingdom-Driven Life”....

***When confronted with polarizing situations,  
the heart ought to follow the “3<sup>d</sup> Choice”, the transcendency  
of the Kingdom of God over “sides”!***

6. Not choose? No! Make sure your choice is based on the right thing!
7. Here’s an incredible nugget of wisdom from the Book of Joshua. It’s a powerful principle that will help you every day of your life...I call it...

### The Third Choice

**When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand. Joshua went up to him and demanded, "Are you friend or foe?"**

**"Are you for us or for our adversaries?"  
Josh 5:13-15 NLT**

**"Are you for us or for our enemies?"  
NIV**

**"Neither one," he replied. "I am the commander of the Lord's army."  
At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence. "I am at your command," Joshua said.**

**"What do you want your servant to do?"  
The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did as he was told.**

### **B. Polarization and the Kingdom Of God**

1. This little episode contains a critical principle: God is not on either “side”. The question is- are we going to obey the King?
2. Joshua’s self-centered thinking was all about polarization. “Are you on MY side or THEIR side?”
3. Like two football teams with Christians on both sides praying for victory, so is politics.

4. All four principle candidates in the fall election profess Christianity; (what a blessing!) and the church contains people on both “sides”.
5. But like Joshua before the battle, we can lose sight of the “Big Picture” if we make choices based on personal preference rather than Kingdom purposes.

***Why do you support your candidate? Because of the party? The race? The gender? The age? How they look?***

6. What does God care about?

### **C. Us, Them or Him?**

1. When you look at two “sides” of an issue, do you think God is on your side or theirs?
2. The answer is “Neither”. There is a “Third Choice”...and it’s the Kingdom of God! It’s coming into alignment with what God says about things.
3. A Kingdom-Driven life shuns labels and tags because there’s a Kingdom mentality that trumps party, race, gender and politics!

### **III. A Personal Perspective-God Cares about Life**

A. Let me depart from my normal procedures and make a flat statement:  
*I could never personally vote for nor support any candidate who supports abortion.*

1. Issues about human life are bigger than political party, race or gender, because how you view the issue of abortion is how you see human life, and the value of life.
2. We all hate war, including the war in Iraq. Even politicians understand every life lost on the battlefield is precious. Since the war started in 2003, 4,000 American have given their lives, and we should cry about that. But 4,000 lives are taken under government sanction every day in hospitals and abortion clinics! That means **by this time tomorrow**, as many babies will be aborted as the total number of soldiers killed in Iraq in five years! And they are on a battlefield! Not in what SHOULD be the safest place on earth, the womb of a mother!

B. More stats that I hope shock you:

- Since the Supreme Court decision on Roe vs. Wade was handed down on January 22, 1973, over **53 million babies** have been aborted
- That is a number larger than the combined population of the 50 largest cities in America
- 1.5 million abortions per year, over 4,000 per day

C. I have heard a lot about race, gender, and political party affiliation from some of you on one side or the other, but almost nothing about protecting the unborn.

What does the Commander have to say about “innocent blood”?

...if you carefully observe all this commandment, which I command you today, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in His ways always...add three more cities (of refuge) for yourself... So *innocent blood* will not be shed in the midst of your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance, and *blood-guiltiness be on you.*”  
Deuteronomy 19:9-10 NASB

**D. I simply do not understand how any biblically literate Christian can support abortion rights or vote for any candidate who does.**

E. I want to address three of the most common objections to what I’m saying.

- “Abortion is not murder because a person is not viable until birth takes place.”
- “We must protect the mother’s personal freedom.”
- “A woman ought to have rights to her own body.”

### III. Answering Objections

#### A. “A Child in the Womb Is Not a Person.”

1. This was the position Bill Clinton was taught by his pastor, the late W.O. Vaught, in a Little Rock Baptist church.
2. Some say yes, some say no, but what does the King say?

O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me...  
You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.  
Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.  
You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.  
You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.  
How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.  
They cannot be numbered!  
Ps 139:1, 13-17 NLT

For he (John the Baptist) shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.  
Luke 1:15 KJV

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.  
Ps 127:3 KJV

3. The earthly life of Jesus Christ began at conception.

**And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.**

**Luke 1:30-31 KJV**

*If abortion was legal in Israel, what might the virgin have done?*

### **B. Second Objection: “We Must Protect a Woman’s Freedom of Choice.”**

**“Pro-life” and “Pro-choice” are shorthand for anti-abortion and pro-abortion. Again, polarization of this issue implies that those of us who are “pro-life” are “anti-choice”, which is no more true than to be “pro-choice” is to be “anti-life”.**

1. America is all about freedom and personal liberty.
2. However, all freedoms are limited to behavior that doesn’t infringe on the freedom of another.
  - a. You have a right to smoke. You have a right to get drunk. You have a right to own a gun.
  - b. But all those freedoms are limited. You do not have a right to inflict your second hand smoke on those who choose not to smoke. You don’t have a right to get drunk and drive down tax-provided streets and endanger my grandchildren. You don’t have the freedom to use your gun to shoot people who aren’t bothering you.
3. A woman is free to choose not to get pregnant by not having sex or by choosing to use contraception. (By the way, if life doesn’t begin at conception, why do condoms exist?)
4. Even ignorant people know when you sow a seed you can get a crop!

### **C. “A Woman Ought to Have the Rights to Her Own Body.”**

1. Yes! The Bible would agree. But a fetus in the womb is NOT her body!

*The fetus cannot survive without the mother’s body, but the child **has its own life** from the moment of conception.*

2. Our own John Loyd, a medical doctor specializing in neo-natal care, gave me these facts:

- A child has **unique DNA from the moment of conception** which remains the same from the time the fetus has one cell throughout its entire life
- The mother and unborn child are immunologically distinct-mother and child have **different and distinct immune systems.**

- The choices a mother makes regarding diet and addictions show up in the child after birth-Children of drug addicted mothers are born drug addicted **because of the mother's choices** and go through withdrawal symptoms after birth.
- The question of when a human life is viable is moot. Development, which begins at conception, is a continuum that does not stop with delivery.

3. All personal freedoms are confined to choices that don't hurt others.

4. Consider these three absurdities:

- The same Hollywood celebrities who won't wear furs or accessories from the skins of animals don't think twice about aborting their babies
- You can go to jail for **destroying the eggs** of bald eagles, but abortion is legal.
- If abortion is not murder, how can the state charge someone who murders a pregnant woman with two counts of murder, one count for the mother and one count for the unborn child?

#### IV. Tolerance and Charity

A. Christ-followers ought to vote based on informed choices.

*One of the four candidates for the highest offices in America has given only \$3,000 (less than one half per cent of total income) to charity in the last five years. One of them gave 25% of income to charity in 2007. Do you know which one? You should.*

B. Christ-followers ought to be passionate about the things that clearly matter to God, and seek to persuade others to God's view. At the same time, Christ-followers ought to be tolerant and charitable to one another and to those who see things differently.

1. Caring for the environment-the first job God gave man was to take care of the earth!
2. Drilling for oil-God gave America all the oil and gas she needs. To not go and get it is poor stewardship, akin to the "wicked servant" who "buried" his pound. (Luke 19:20-22)
3. The idea that you can't care for environment and drill for oil at the same time is and has always been a ludicrous idea.

C. We need to walk in grace toward women who have had abortions while expressing our hearts through our vote.

D. Our job is to get on God's side. We need to make the "third choice" in a culture of polarization....the Kingdom-Driven Life!

*If you can hear a message like this, and still be pro-abortion, you don't have a head problem-you have a heart problem. You need to ask yourself, "What's wrong with my heart?"*