

## An Open Letter to Pastors from a Post-Abortive Woman

I have the joy and privilege of working with a group of women who I have found to be such a source of education, inspiration and examples of godly grace and compassion. They are also a group of women who are post-abortive. I have heard each of their stories and felt the pain as they shared, but also the joy of their forgiveness and the closeness they feel from their Savior. We work together to see that every woman has an opportunity to experience that same healing.

We often talk through some of the obstacles to that healing. What it looks like in our churches. How hard it is for those women to sit in a pew on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday without a message on forgiveness. Their reluctance to volunteer to be in the nursery or really with any kind of children's ministry. How it's affecting their marriage, their parenting and so much more.

Each of these ladies has their own online abortion recovery ministry. In total, they minister to thousands of post-abortive women each year. One of them, my dear friend Sylvia, wrote a short blog to Pastors where she shares her story. I want to share a little bit of it.

*Dear Pastor and Lay Church Leaders,*

*Sitting in your pews or in your online services every Sunday are women and men who are hurting from the trauma of reproductive loss. The hidden scars that often do not get discussed, have left a lot of "walking wounded" among you.*

*I know in my heart that messages of compassion and mercy reach many from the pulpit each and every week. But many others, because of lingering guilt and shame, think they are not worthy to even walk through your doors Sunday after Sunday. They bravely do it because they hope, one day, their particular pain will be mentioned. They want to be set free to live a full abundant life in Christ and to serve Him with abandon.*

*How do I know this? Because for 20 years I was that woman. I served God at half capacity; in constant fear of His judgment for my abortion. I dared not bring it up because I wasn't sure I would receive support from my Pastor and congregation. I lived in doubt partly because there weren't any sermons delivered about my particular sin. So, I sat in silence and served as a hobbled Christian.*

I recently listened to a podcast that was discussing the fact that abortion is not a political issue, it's a *gospel* issue. The speaker's concern was who was going to share this message of hope with those who need to hear it - if not the church. Will the medical community - nope. The education system - not hardly. Social media and other media outlets - we all know the answer to that. Then who? Where are people going to hear this message that they so desperately need to

hear? This is our time to share - we have the most powerful, life-changing and transformational message there is, IF we have the courage to share it. If we do, men and women will be set free, unborn lives will be spared and *generations* will be preserved.

We need your voice.

May His grace rest on you as you seek Him!

Carrie Kraucyk  
Abiding Care Executive Director