AFLM: But some might argue that in legalizing abortion the sin issue was clouded, even removed, so that the unsaved don't realize they are sinning.

JODY: Well, legalizing sin does not give us license to sin. If we legalize stealing does that give us the right to steal? Legalizing something does not nullify the moral code. And I am talking about the saved and the unsaved. I was unsaved when I had my abortion.

AFLM: Did you know it was wrong?

JODY: Absolutely. I think God has created women, whether you are a Christian or a total heathen, with maternal instincts and I believe in my heart, you know, that if I had listened to my heart I wouldn't have had an abortion. I believe you have to totally shut down in your mind what's happening to your physical body. You know we're not unintelligent. A lot of people have women pictured as unintelligent human beings if they believe that we don't really think that these are children. Even the pro-choicers know these are children.

AFLM: Actually, abortion is one of the most anti-feminist things that you can be involved in. It says that we're so weak and stupid that we need somebody to repair our mistakes.

JODY: Absolutely. It denies, too, one of the very reasons that we are created, motherhood, that we can carry these children. That's what really is a humiliating thing about abortion. We're denying who we are.

98% of women who have abortions do so, not because of rape or because they're incest victims. It's because these little babies in our wombs are very inconvenient to us. And so we abort them. And the "day of trouble" does come. This goes back to whether you're a heathen or you're a God-following Christian. We are not going to mock God. We're only kidding ourselves. We are going to reap a consequence and that reaping is that we start rotting on the inside.

When you talk about women that are having "post abortion syndrome," all that is is the natural consequence of sin in a woman's life.

AFLM: So, you're saying that it's just guilt, or a physical and psychological manifestation of it?

JODY: Both. Read about King David in the Bible when he started manifesting the consequences of sin in his life from his affair with Bathsheba (having her husband murdered) and the death of that child. Read Psalms 51 where David talks about how his bones ached from within. You start rotting from the inside out when you take upon yourself the consequences of sin. There are natural consequences.

I really believe God is trying to break down within the pro-life movement right now the idea that we are victims. And part of that is that we over-compensate in our conversations with others. We are trying to be so compassionate in what we put forth to other people that we're actually being more compassionate than Jesus Himself, because God is calling us to be honest with these men who put $400 in the hands of these women and said, "Go take care of it." Those men aren't victims. Those women aren't victims.

Now I believe that there are some that are. I believe that there's 13-year-old girls — I had a girl in that used to work at an abortion facility who told me about a twelve-year-old girl. Her parents brought her in and strapped her to the table. She could have been a victim of incest. But you know, I'm talking about the majority. The majority are not victims.

AFLM: There are so many ministries set up on the premise that women are victims. Do you think there is any hope that the Church will begin to deal honestly with women as victimizers?

JODY: Yes. Women know in their hearts. That's why the shame and the guilt is there. That's why you can't get women to come forth to say that they've had an abortion. They've got the shame of killing their child. If they were true victims they would come forward.

I think it does a great injustice to the true victim of abortion, which is the child when we call ourselves the "second victim of abortion."

AFLM: I was flipping through a major pro-life publication, very nicely put together, but there was so little about babies, about the people who are actually dying in an abortion. Almost all of the content dealt with women as victims of abortion. In fact, a number of newsletters have that focus.

JODY: Well, there's no doubt about the fact that women need healing. But how was David healed? He said, "I confess my sin before You, oh God. Against You and only You have I sinned." There was a year in between the time that David sinned and the time he came before the Lord, and the manifestation of his guilt was so great he was rotting inside.

We do not like to admit our own depravity. We don't like to admit that we would ever stoop so low that we would take the life of our own child. Therefore, we have got to rationalize somehow — and not admit that we are a depraved people. What does the Bible say? It says that there is nothing good in me, absolutely nothing, that my heart is wicked and decietful above all things. We don't like to admit that.

We have been sold a whole Gospel message, "We are the King's kids, we are the King's kids." And rightfully so. I understand what they're saying. But let us not forget the depths of depravity to which we can fall. I think that is what women, and men, who are coming to their healing, have got to admit. The hardest truth that any woman or any man having been through an abortion has got to admit to themselves is, "Lord, it was a child, it was my child, and I took the life of that child."

No one forced me on to that table. I had some pressure. I was a school teacher, I didn't want to give up my career and there was all kinds of pressure. But no one forced me to get up on that table. No one forced me to fornicate. No one forced me to rebel.

AFLM: How long after the abortion was it when you came to terms with that sin?

JODY: Eleven years of pure hell, torment, and suicidal thoughts. I experienced just about every one of the symptoms — I don't even like to say symptoms. I experienced the natural consequences of that sin in my life. For the very reasons that I had my abortion I lost it all. I had my abortion to save my teaching career, not to disappoint my parents, to save the relationship with the baby's father. And after my abortion I resigned my teaching job, I left the father of my baby and disappointed my parents. The natural consequence of sin started affecting me.

I came to the Lord about three years after my abortion and I still stayed in denial. Finally, the Lord just did a real miracle and the healing started to take place. But the teaching about the victim was out there by then and it started to appease my conscience. That's one of the real dangers of the victim message, it does appease a woman's conscience. They are not being brought to true repentance. I mean, if I'm a victim in the true sense, then I'm innocent and who is responsible?

I am not innocent. I am guilty. I had a depraved heart. I rebelled against God. That maternal instinct, that mother instinct is a gift from the Lord and we have to totally deny that, we have to work to deny that in order to get on the table. We have to convince ourselves that it isn't taking a life.

I stood over the casket of a girl who had an abortion once. My daughter's classmate, seventeen years old and about to graduate. She could really grasp that the Lord could forgive her. She wrote me a letter before she died. She said she knew that the Lord had forgiven her, but she said "I can never forgive myself," and she wrote her own funeral service. She asked that one rose be placed in her casket for her unborn child. She really could not forgive herself for what she had done and that started me searching.

You know God really wanted the truth about us "forgiving ourselves." You know the teaching that's out there is that God will forgive us and we have to forgive ourselves. But I knew there was more to it because that's not scriptural. God doesn't say that we have to forgive ourselves. I started studying that out because I think women really get stuck on that.

I don't have anything in me that gives me the ability to forgive myself. That's psychology, right on the verge of New Age. It's Jesus who was stretched out on a cross. It's Jesus who took the nails, and it's Jesus who forgives me.

AFLM: Well, for a person who has come to salvation in Christ and repented of their sin, isn't it somewhat arrogant of them to continue to flail themselves? I mean if God forgives you, who are you to not forgive yourself?

JODY: I understand why women do that, but I don't think they understand the character of God. When we think we have the ability to forgive ourselves, we have created ourselves to have this power, this "I can forgive myself." But what the Lord showed me in scripture after scripture like, "My grace is sufficient for you," and "My mercies are new every morning," was all about the character of God, who He is. And about how every day God pours out His mercy. He showed me that His grace and His mercy and His love are sufficient for me to walk every day in the consequences of my sin. My consequences are not erased and that's where women get stuck.

Women think they have to forgive themselves before they can start walking through consequences. They can't do that. So I start out by lifting up the name of Jesus by saying, "God it's because of You that I can walk through the consequences. I can't have my job back, I can't know all of the things that I want to know about my child, but because of You I am forgiven and am able to start new every day. It lifts up the name of Jesus that all men may be drawn unto Him. God pours out His character to us.

AFLM: So, with regard to the character of God, He's pouring out His grace and His mercy, and that there's something of dependance on Him that you express when you walk through the consequences without sort of a greasy grace element where, "He forgave me, I forgive me, and now I can put that bad experience behind me?"

JODY: Exactly. The truth is that we aborting women should always feel some degree of shame and regret. The guilt is gone, and the condemnation is gone, but I'll tell you what, I'm ashamed of what I did. I'm ashamed that I allowed myself to fall to that level of depravity. I'm ashamed of the choices that I made in my life.

I'm totally free. I am not living under guilt. Jesus took my guilt and my abortion is nailed to the cross. I live under the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, but there are still consequences to what I have done that can't be erased. It can be like a homosexual who has AIDS. He can get saved and be forgiven, but he still has to bear the consequence of his sin.

There is not the possibility that we will ever get our children back, and what the Lord showed me is that it is because of who He is that we can walk in the consequences of that forgiveness [that comes from Him]. It's like getting showered by God's mercy every day of my life. God is sufficient. It's time to say that God has the character to do what needs to be done. ■

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