

An Open Letter to Governor Gretchen Whitmer  
From the Elders at Grace Community Church  
November 11, 2022

Governor Whitmer,

This letter is written to you as those who live, work, and raise families within the state of Michigan where you serve as Governor. As Christians, we write to you with the knowledge that there is only one true, eternal, triune God, and that He is the God of all creation. Further, we confess that the one true God has created all things that exist and that He has made humanity in His image. We confess that God was incarnate in the flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ, and that in Christ's death and resurrection He has accomplished the salvation of all those who would believe in His name. We recognize and affirm that Jesus Christ holds all authority in this life and in the life to come, and He thus exercises all authority, in all realms, at all times, and in all things.

We honor your position as governor precisely because we are Christians. God has appointed those in positions of authority in this world (1 Pet 2:13–17), and we honor those in authority because this honors God. We also recognize that there are specific parameters set for those in authority, as God unilaterally defines the constraints and boundaries of those authorities (Rom 13:1–7). An authority which exceeds its parameters or neglects its responsibilities is an authority in rebellion against God. Christ holds all authority in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18), and every earthly authority is derivative and dependent on His permissive will. “The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers” (Ps 24:1-2).

Further, we are mindful that God raises kings and rulers just as He raises nations and empires (Dan 2:21; Ps 46:6–11). “He makes nations great, and he destroys them; he enlarges nations, and leads them away” (Job 12:23). If a people are prosperous, it is a blessing from God; conversely, if sin metastasizes among a people, there will be divine judgment upon that people. Sin incurs judgment, and when a ruler or authority leads the people into rebellion against God there are inevitable, just consequences which fall upon that people. In all these things, God's people cannot and must not remain silent. It is displeasing to God when sin and evil are ignored and unrepented (Jer 6:14; 1 Thess 5:13), while it is a repugnant abomination to God when evil is called good: “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness” (Isa 5:20). This is not a matter of church and state distinctives—this is a matter of testifying with clarity and conviction that there is one Lord who is over all of life, including every sphere of authority in this world. From this testimony there is no neutral ground, nor is there an area of life which is exempt from God's purview and authority. The essential truth is that God is Lord over all things.

Governor Whitmer, you have been a consistent and outspoken proponent for abortion in the state of Michigan, and abortion is the clear and undeniable murder of an unborn child who is made in God's image. You have personally advocated for expansive abortion availability, your office has supported legislation to make abortion increasingly accessible, and the recent

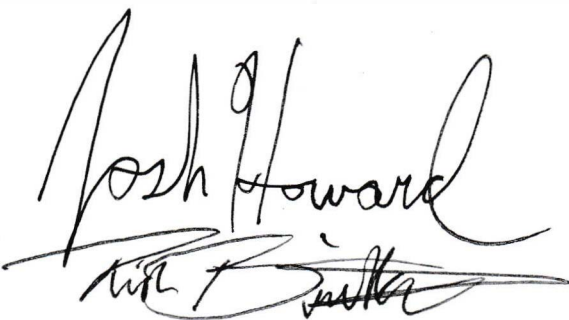
adoption of Proposition 3 has enshrined abortion as a central tenet of Michigan's founding documents. These are wicked things. As Christians who worship the living God, we cannot approve of, cooperate with, or support any legislation or activity that accords with abortion. God has created humanity in His image (Gen 1:26-28), and every human life is inherently worthy of dignity and respect. God forms every child within the mother's womb (Jer 1:5; Ps 139:13), and every child is to be cherished as a gift from God's hand (Ps 127:3). "Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: 'I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself'" (Isa 44:24). The murder of a human being made in God's image is an inherently immoral and sinful act precisely because every human being bears the image of God—therefore murder is first and foremost an affront against God Himself. Scripture bears this out: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image" (Gen 9:6). The murder of an image-bearer of God is never permissible, can never be counted as good, and is an affront against the creator God in every circumstance.

Governor, our prayer for you is that you would turn from this disastrous course, that you would repent of your sins and turn to Jesus Christ, and that you might be saved by His grace (2 Cor 6:2). Out of a concern for your soul, we plead with you to repent and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15). The Son of God has lived, died, and risen from the grave that those who believe in Him may have eternal life: "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). As the elected governor of our state, we remind you that you will give an account before almighty God for the laws you pass, for the sins you encourage, and for the lives of every child murdered by abortion under your watch. We consider this moment quite critical: there are the countless lives of unborn children at stake, there is the spiritual rot of our state in the balance, and there is nothing short of eternal judgment and destruction at hand for those who rebel against God. We are assured: "each of us will give an account of himself to God" (Rom 14:12).

We pray that you would stop leading Michigan down a path that leads to divine judgment, that you would honor God as holy, and that you would protect the lives of those made in His image who reside in the state you serve. We implore you to support, encourage, and protect the local churches and pregnancy care centers that are compassionately and fervently striving to provide homes for the neglected children in this world. We plead with you, as an authority designated by God, to submit to the God over every authority and turn from this evil that is in our land.

In the service of the King of Kings,

The elders of Grace Community Church (Battle Creek, MI)



Josh Howard



Timothy



Dave Wilson



Another elder's signature