

A Bible Study on Abortion

THE ISSUE: The issue is very simple. Either an unborn child is a human being or else it is not. If it is a human being it deserves protection by the law of the land and is already protected by the law of God. If an unborn child is not a human being it should be treated with as much moral concern as we show towards fingernail clippings and removing tonsils. If an unborn child is a human being it would fit under the governing concept of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." There would be legal protection in the Fifth Amendment of our Federal Constitution in the words: "No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." In the infamous Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court the justices in the majority avoided the question of whether the unborn child is a human being, stating that it could not decide that difficult question. We propose to answer that question today. On that answer the whole abortion issue and controversy hangs.

WHEN DOES LIFE BEGIN? The Bible answers:

Psalm 51:6 "Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful FROM THE TIME MYMOTHER CONCEIVED ME."

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I knew you, before you were born I set you apart."

Life begins when God creates life in the womb through the miracle of conception.

ARE UNBORN CHILDREN TO BE REGARDED AS HUMAN? The Bible answers:

Luke 1:41-44 "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is THE CHILD YOU WILL BEAR! But why am I so favored the MOTHER OF MY LORD should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, THE BABY IN MY WOMB leaped for joy."

(Note: The Greek word, "brephos," is used for "child" and "baby" in the verses above. It is the same word used of the newborn Jesus in Luke 2:12, "You will find a BABY wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." It is also used in Luke 18:15, "People were also bringing BABIES to Jesus to have him touch them." Mary is also called "the MOTHER of my Lord," before she gives birth. In fact, Mary was only a few days or weeks in pregnancy when she visited Elizabeth. Take note of common usage of motherhood before birth in "maternity clothes," "childbirth," "woman with child." We do not say "fetal clothes, fetalbirth, woman with fetus." Both common sense and Scriptures equate the unborn as children.)

Exodus 21:22-25 "If men who are fighting hit a PREGNANT WOMAN (A WOMAN WITH CHILD - NASB) and she gives birth prematurely (has a miscarriage - NASB) but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."

(Note: This passage establishes the fact that God's Old Testament law treated the unborn child in the same way as a born child. If this passage only dealt with an injury to the woman, that situation covering bodily injury had already been treated. What makes this case different is that it is a "woman WITH

CHILD" so that two persons need protection from bodily harm.)

The U.S. Senate voted 87 to 0 (March 13, 1974) to bar the execution of a pregnant woman. Why?

"I know this issue is very controversial. But unless and until it can be proven that an unborn child is not a human being, can we justify assuming without proof that it isn't. No one has yet offered such proof. Indeed, all the evidence is to the contrary. We should rise above bitterness and reproach. And if Americans could come together in a spirit of understanding and helping, then we could find positive solutions to the tragedy of abortion." President Ronald Reagan, State of the Union Address - January 1984

The Bible speaks of the unborn as children and offers them the same protection as the born.

ARE THE UNBORN TRULY HUMAN? The Bible answers:

Luke 1:44 "The baby in my womb LEAPED FOR JOY."

Psalms 139:13-16 "For you created my inmost being; YOU KNIT ME TOGETHER IN MY MOTHER'S WOMB. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you WHEN I WAS MADE IN THE SECRET PLACE. WHEN I WAS WOVEN TOGETHER IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH, YOUR EYES SAW MY UNFORMED BODY. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."

Job 10:18-19 "Why did you bring ME out of the womb? I WISH I HAD DIED BEFORE ANY EYE SAW ME. If only I HAD NEVER COME INTO BEING or had been carried straight from the womb to the grave!"

"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST." The Apostles' Creed, a confession of our Christian faith.

The Bible speaks of the unborn as having feelings of joy which implies faith and therefore a soul. We confess that Jesus became a man from the moment of his conception.

ARE SOME PEOPLE BETTER OFF IF THEY ARE NOT BORN? The Bible answers:

Mark 14:21 "The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM IF HE HAD NOT BEEN BORN."

(Note: This is said of Judas. His eternal fate is hell. For him it would have been better not to have existed than to now exist forever in hell. That surely does not imply that it would have been right for anyone to kill him!)

II Peter 3:9 "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Mark 16:16 "Whoever does not believe will be condemned."

Shelley Winters, while being interviewed on the Donahue show, suddenly blurted out that she had two abortions. "I am a very lonely woman," she confessed. "I would give up everything - my money, my

academy awards, my career - if only I could have those children now." She broke into uncontrollable sobs while the audience responded with sympathetic applause and Donahue quickly switched to a commercial. Did she think her children were better off dead?

No one is better off dead than alive unless he passes through death to life eternal. God has not promised that He will save all children who are killed through abortion.

WHY NOT ALLOW ABORTIONS FOR CAUSES LIKE RAPE OR INCEST? The Bible answers:

Deuteronomy 24:16 "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin."

Deuteronomy 22:25 "If out in the country a man happens to meet a girl pledged to be married and rapes her, only the man who has done this shall die."

Genesis 38:15,27,29-30 "When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. Not realizing that she was his daughter-in-law, he went over to her by the roadside and said, 'Come now, let me sleep with you.'...When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb...He was named Perez. Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out and he was given the name Zerah."

Matthew 1:1,3 "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David...Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar."

Genesis 19:36-38 "So both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father. The older daughter had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today. The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him BenAmmi; he is the father of the Ammonites of today."

Ethel Waters related this story in her autobiography, "His Eye is on the Sparrow": "I never was a child. I never felt I belonged. I was always an outsider." Her mother resented and disliked her because she conceived Ethel as the result of a knife point rape when she was only 12 years old. Ethel raised over 20 little girls, giving them all the love and discipline she never had as a child. She supported her mother all her life and her mother was able before she died to accept her and tell her she loved her, an event Ethel placed as the greatest in her life "except for finding God." She toured for the past 15 years with the Billy Graham Crusade. "There are not regrets, not even sighs, only joy and thanksgiving to the Lord for this life He gave me. For I was born naked and strong enough to make my own way on my own. And there is no greater gift of destiny." Should Ethel Waters have been aborted? Or did God have a purpose to her life in spite of the manner in which she was conceived?

In Dr. Irvin Kushner's testimony before the Constitution Subcommittee on October 14, 1981, he stated that 97% of abortions were due to social, emotional, and financial reasons while only 3% were attributed to danger to the mother's life or physical health, rape, incest, and fetal handicap.

Pregnancy due to rape and incest does not change the fact that another life has been conceived and therefore comes under God's prohibition against murder. God punished the guilty and spared the victim. Abortion kills the victim and frees the guilty.

CAN'T WE DO WITH OUR BODIES AS WE LIKE? The Bible answers:

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."

Ephesians 6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

(Note: What a paradox!!! In the state of Maryland, a minor girl can get an abortion without parental consent, but must have permission to have her ears pierced!!! - Paul Harvey, ABC Radio)

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder."

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."

Luke 23:41 "We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

(Note: Much confusion has been caused by the insistence by some that to be anti-abortion or pro-life means that one must also be against capital punishment and nuclear armaments. There is a vast difference between the killing of an innocent baby through abortion and the execution of person who brought this punishment upon himself by his own choice and action. Nor is there any connection between a country arming itself against aggressors and the dismemberments of millions of the unborn.)

We have the right and duty to control our bodies in a moral way. We do not have the right to control, harm or kill someone else's body. An unborn child is a separate body even though it rests within another body. Boys obviously cannot be part of the female body of their mothers.

IS ABORTION THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN, OR WHAT? The Bible answers:

I John 1:7 "The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from ALL SIN."

John 8:3,11 "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery... Neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

I Corinthians 6:9-11 "Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

All sins and all sinners are forgiven through the blood of Jesus Christ. However, forgiven sinners will walk in love according to God's law and not seek to murder or commit adultery.

BUT IF IT IS LEGAL ISN'T IT RIGHT? The Bible answers:

Act 4:19 "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God."

Isaiah 5:20 "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil."

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder."

Exodus 1:15-21 "The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives...'When you help the Hebrew women

in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.' The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live...And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own."

(Note: One doctor was quoted in the "Indian Express" in 1988, "Yes, I do sex-determination tests. It's better for an unwanted girl not to be born than to suffer later." The birth of a boy is cause for great rejoicing, but given modern technology that of a daughter can lead to a request for an abortion. In India, being female is an economic handicap. A girl means trouble. She must be married off at great expense. Anything she earns belongs to her in-laws. In Bombay out of 8000 cases of abortion, 7999 involved a female fetus, according to one study. Feminists are up in arms screaming "female feticide," but when it is the abortion of both male and female fetuses they call it "woman's right to choose.")

Making something legal does not necessarily make it right. Laws sanctioning homosexual activity does not make it morally right.

WHAT SHOULD A CHRISTIAN DO ABOUT ALL THIS? The Bible answers:

Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder."

James 4:17 "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins."

Proverbs 31:8,9 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy."

(Note: Martin Luther in his Large Catechism under the Fifth Commandment writes: "The import of the commandment against killing is this: In the first place, we should not harm anyone...again, we should neither use nor sanction any means or methods whereby anyone may be harmed. In the second place, this commandment (5th) is violated not only when a person actually does evil, but also when he fails to do good to his neighbor, or, though he has the opportunity, fails to prevent, protect, and save him from suffering bodily harm or injury. Therefore God rightly calls all persons murderers who do not offer counsel and aid to men in need and in peril of body and life.")

A Christian is compelled to speak up and to fight against abortion, the murder of the unborn. God's Word demands nothing less!

(All quotations taken from the New International Version unless otherwise noted.)

[4/22/89 - Pastor Glen Schaumberg, Niles, IL]

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