

## Abortion (Part 1): Regaining God's Perspective – Various Scriptures

### Bibles

In the middle of our Untouchable series last November, I mentioned that from time to time

I would return to some of the social issues of our day . . .

And address them from a biblical perspective

At that time, we looked at politics and gov't, drinking, and homosexuality . . .

Having addressed adultery a bit earlier

This month, with the anniversary of Roe vs Wade coming up, I'm going to spend the next two weeks talking about abortion – certainly another untouchable

The first week, looking at it from God's perspective as found in the Bible

And the second week, from the world's perspective – addressing/responding to some of the more popular arguments for abortion

- In doing so, I realize I'm speaking to a wide variety of people  
Some of you firmly believe abortion is wrong – others of you think abortion is just fine  
Some of you are active in your opposition to it – others have given up  
Some of you don't know what to think – others of u have stopped thinking about it  
There may even be some of you are considering an abortion  
While others of you have had one

For those of you in that last group, let me say this

My words are not intended to pour salt in your wound or make you feel worse than you already do

I'm well aware of the guilt and shame and remorse and emotional trauma that follows an abortion

And I hope you're well aware of the forgiveness, relief, and restoration found in Jesus

And the comfort, healing, and acceptance found in our church

If you're not, or if you haven't experienced that, *please* get in touch with us

You can call the church office, email us, or talk to one of us after the service

We're here to help you and love you, not hurt your or condemn you

Abortion is devastating, but it's not an unforgivable sin

### Intro

Having said that, my intent is 3-fold: (1) to shed light on a very dark subject; (2) to re-gain God's perspective on it; and (3) to awaken or *re-awaken* you to the plight of the unborn

With the ultimate hope of course, to save lives

B/c no matter how you look at it – abortion ends life

To the tune of about 3300 lives every single day in the US

That's the number of surgical abortions

And that's 1 out of every 5 pregnancies

Which means that in the time it takes me to deliver this message – 100 abortions will have been performed

Add it all up, and that's 1.2 million a year, and almost 50 million since January 26, 1973 when abortion on demand was legalized in our country

And that doesn't include chemical abortions through the use of over-the-counter drugs like "Plan B"

- Even more disturbing are the numbers from the rest of the world  
Like China, who has seen and sometimes forced, more than 400 million abortions in the last 3 decades  
Or Russia, who now has more abortions than live births (Al Mohler)

And the worst part is, we've become numb to it

It's a travesty of justice that we've turned a blind eye toward, or have given up on

Making it all the more critical that we re-gain God's perspective

Starting with this . . .

### **Personhood begins at conception (Ps 51:5)**

Turn in your Bibles to Ps 51

15-20 years ago, I might have said, "*Life* begins at conception" b/c at that time, the abortion debate was centered on the question of when life began

But that's no longer the case

With the advent of new technology to actually see inside the womb, and lay your eyes on a tiny baby, with all the features of a newborn . . .

Hardly anybody argues that it's just a blob of tissue anymore

Oh, people still say it, especially abortion providers, but few people use it as a legitimate support for their viewpoint

On top of that, with the acquisition of new knowledge re DNA . . .

And the wonder of how 23 chromosomes from the man, and 23 from the woman, combine at conception, to create a new and unique human being . . .

With nothing more to be added other than food, water, and oxygen in order for it to grow and develop – the same things we need outside the womb to grow and develop

With all of that knowledge, only the uninformed argue that life somehow starts at an arbitrary point later on

The widespread consensus from doctors, scientists, ethicists, and anybody else who has an ounce of honesty about them – is that life begins at conception

Conception is the start of a new human being

A point no longer being debated at any serious level of discourse

- What is being debated, is *personhood*  
"Okay, abortion supporters say – maybe life does begin at conception, but that's not really the issue"  
"The issue is personhood – and a zygote, a fertilized egg, is not a person"

But what they raise is a false dichotomy – b/c there's no difference between a person and a human

A human being is a person, and a person is a human being (dictionary.com)

What they're essentially arguing is that personhood depends on size and features/looks

But if that were the case, I'd be more of a person than most of you b/c I'm taller than u  
And even Dr. Seuss knows better than that, "Because, after all, a person is a person, no matter how small." (Horton Hears a Who)

And if it depended on looks, then those with deformities would be less of a person than those without them – and we know that's not true either

A human being is a person, and a person is a human being  
But those who are pro-abortion have tried to create an artificial distinction between the two, in order to avoid the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment . . .  
Which says that the state shall not deprive any *person* of life without due process of law

- But more important than the ethical reasoning or the scientific support, is the biblical record  
And the Bible indicates that personhood begins at conception – here’s how it goes . . .

Rom 5:19 tells us that we receive our sin nature from Adam  
*By the one man’s disobedience, the many were made sinners*

And, David tells us in Ps 51:5, that that sin nature is received not at birth, but conception  
*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*  
IOW, not only did David consider himself a sinful person from the time of his *birth* –  
saying, *I was brought forth in iniquity*  
But even from conception – *in sin did my mother conceive me*  
Referring not to his mother’s sin, but his sin  
David was saying that he was sinful, i.e. he had a sin nature, not only from birth, but from  
*conception* – the point at which the man’s sperm fertilizes the woman’s egg

And who but an actual *person* can have a sin nature?  
Rocks don’t; Trees don’t; Animals don’t – they’re morally neutral  
Only people have sin natures

So the fact that there is a sin nature present at the point of conception, tells us that there is  
a *person* present at the point of conception  
Personhood begins at conception – that’s God’s perspective

And as persons . . .

### **The unborn are precious to God (Ps 139:13-16)**

6 Reasons for this (Ps 72:14)

1. B/c they are his handiwork  
From the moment of conception, the baby that grows is the work of God’s hands,  
forming and knitting them together, in the womb

Ps 139:13-14

13 – He starts with *For* b/c what he’s about to say is support for God’s omniscience and omnipresence

God, you’re everywhere and know everything – [b/c] *you formed* . . .  
He’s saying that God is an active participant in our lives/development, even in the womb  
Which evokes praise from David (read v14)

The unborn are precious to God b/c they are his wonderful handiwork  
Just like a wonderful painting is precious to the artist  
Or a heart-felt song is precious the composer  
Or an impressive building is precious to the architect

2. B/c he accounts for their life long before they ever exist (read v15)  
15 – referring to the seclusion and darkness of the womb

16 – God considers the unborn so precious, that he accounts for every single day of their lives, before the first one ever dawns

The unborn are precious to God . . .

3. B/c they’re made in his image

The Bible says that *God made man* [mankind] *in his own image* (Gen 1:27; 9:6)  
Which among other things probably means that we’ve been endowed with a spiritual nature, given the capacity for emotions, and have the ability to think  
Something he says about no other animal or aspect of his creation  
Which means that we must be special to him – precious in his sight, no matter how small or how young

4. B/c he demands punishment for their harm

Ex 21:22-25 – given the fact that this eye for eye ethic is also to be applied to those outside the womb . . .

This passage indicates that God views the death or harm of an unborn baby, the same way he does the death or harm of anyone else

IOW God is as concerned to protect the life of the unborn, as he is with the born

Now, someone advocating a pro-abortion viewpoint might object that this doesn’t apply to us b/c it’s the OT Law – and they’d be partially correct

We are no longer subject to these consequences, nor are we held to this standard of obedience in order to ensure our salvation . . .

But we *are* held to the principles behind the Law, i.e. the reasons God put them in place, in order to live our lives *his* way

And in this case, the principle is that God highly values life, born and unborn, and therefore we should too

5. B/c he refers to them the same way he does newborns

In the NT, Luke the doctor, uses the same word . . .

Whether referring to the *unborn* John the Baptist, the *newborn* Jesus, or the *infants* who were brought to Jesus later on for his blessing (Luke 18:12)

He calls them all *babies* (brephos)

And he did so, when he could have used different words to distinguish between them

But he didn’t, indicating that he considered them all the same – born or unborn  
And therefore equally precious to God

6. B/c he tells us to stick up for them

**Ps 82:3-4** – *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

God wouldn’t so explicitly tell us to do that, unless the weak, fatherless, afflicted, and destitute were precious to him

Certainly those at risk of abortion would fall under the classification of weak, needy, afflicted, and often times fatherless

Certainly they of all people need to be rescued from the hand of the wicked . . .

Referring especially to those who perform/profit from abortions

- If we're going to regain God's perspective on abortion, we must first regain God's perspective on the *unborn*  
Starting with the fact that they're people, and they're precious

Then, and only then, can we properly understand that . . .

**God hates the shedding of innocent blood (Prov 6:16-19)**

Prov 6:16-19

7 things are an *abomination* to God – an outrage, an atrocity, a disgrace

Including the hands that shed *innocent blood*

Meaning those that take the life of others without cause or remorse . . .

And those that have done so, without repentance

God hates it

- I want to read you part of the testimony of a woman who had an abortion, as found in Randy Alcorn's book – *ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments*  
When I was seventeen, I found myself apart from my family, involved in an unhealthy relationship with a man, and pregnant which was something I didn't want to think about or deal with.  
Eventually, I [went] down to [the] Lovejoy abortion clinic in Portland to make an appointment to have an abortion. I made this decision because I had no desire to be a mother, and quite honestly, because I was terrified of going through the pain of labor. I just didn't think of it as being wrong.  
When I was examined, I was found to be 24 weeks, or six months, pregnant. But I was assured that although I couldn't have a simple clinical abortion, I could still have one done at a nearby hospital. [So] I agreed. I would have done anything to not be pregnant, and I showed up at the hospital on the scheduled day.  
I was placed, along with about a dozen other young girls, in a large basement ward which was lined with cots. There, we received a saline injection in our abdomens which was designed to kill our unborn babies and expel their tiny bodies.  
I will never be able to forget the sights or sound[s] burned into my mind on that day.  
After a few hours of labor, we all began to lose our babies.  
When the girl on my right lost hers, she began shrieking and screamed for the nurses to "get that away from me!" as she crawled backwards up her bed. The girl on my left cried quietly and asked the nurses if hers was a boy or a girl.  
[When it was my time] I felt a violent lurching sensation as the baby slid from my body.  
It is so sad to me that the only memory I have of my child is that of a small, still huddled form covered in blood laying on the white sheet of my cot.

Whether it's a saline abortion like hers . . .

Or a suction abortion where the dismembered baby is sucked into a jar, never to be seen

Or a chemical abortion from drugs like Plan B or RU-486 that result in the baby being flushed down the toilet in the confines of your own bathroom . . .

God hates it

He hates the hands that do it and the heart of those who devise it – i.e. who design and implement such wickedness

On top of that, he says in Deut 27:25 – *Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood.*

Cursed, as opposed to blessed, is anyone who gets paid to do abortions

If you're in some way involved in the abortion industry, I don't say that to condemn you, but to warn you

God hates the shedding of innocent blood so much, that he withholds blessing and stores up punishment for those who do it

Which means, that of the many things for which we should praying re abortion . . .

The spiritual conviction of those who perform them, help w/ them, promote them, and profit from them should near the top – b/c God hates it

That's his perspective

- All of which means – abortion is *wrong* in God's eyes (**summary slide**)

It's *wrong* to take the life of another person w/out just cause

Especially someone so precious to him

It's wrong to do it; It's wrong to support it

It's wrong to allow it, to the extent we can do something about it

Jesus *loves* the little children, *all* the children of the world

Red, brown, yellow, black, and white – born or unborn

Jesus loves the little children of the world

And so should we

Pray

For those who are crushed by guilt or those who have suppressed it

Bring them to a place of godly sorrow for their sin – a place of repentance

So they can experience forgiveness and relief

Help us to regain your perspective on all this

Forgive us for our complacency and silence

Remove this blight from our land