

Abortion – Responding to the World’s Perspective (Various Scriptures)

Last week we looked at abortion and life from God’s perspective

Finding from the Scriptures that just as *life* begins at conception, so does *personhood*

And that God considers the unborn *precious*

And that he hates the shedding of innocent blood

That’s God’s perspective – if you weren’t here, or haven’t yet heard it . . .

I’d encourage you to get on our website, or pick up a copy at Books and Things

This week, having regained God’s perspective, I hope to inform you and equip you to respond to the *world’s* perspective on abortion

Referring to those who favor abortion, and the reasons they cite

Intro

This will by no means be comprehensive in that regard – I couldn’t hope to cover every point of contention

But I will try to address some of the more popular arguments/perspectives, and then encourage you to respond

- But before we get to that, let me reiterate that this message is not intended to condemn you if you’ve had an abortion
There’s forgiveness and healing, found in repentance of your sins and faith in Jesus
There’s grace and acceptance found in a loving community of believers like our church

It’s not intended to condemn

Rather, my intent is to bring truth to light, dispel falsehoods, and encourage you to take a stand, with the tools to do so

All of which starts with education

If you’re going to respond to the world’s perspective on abortion, you must . . .

Educate yourself (Is 1:17)

Turn to Is 1:17 – the first of 3 Scriptures I want to look at

In this first chapter, God wastes no time in getting right to the point

He says in the verses leading up to this, that the people are sinful, their worship is fake, and he’s had enough

So he says in v16 – *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil*

IOW repent – confess your sins and stop doing them

16b-17 – *Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.*

If that doesn’t apply to abortion, I don’t what does

And the phrase that I want to zero in on is – learn to do good; as in, *educate yourself*

In order to seek justice and correct the oppression of abortion, we have to do good

But in order to *do* good, we have to know what’s bad, and how to respond to it

You can’t do good and correct a wrong, unless you *know* it’s wrong, and *why*

And for that, you have to educate yourself

That’s especially true when it comes to pro-choice mantras

They sound all good/right, but they’re very wrong

I want to address 5 of them, so that you know *why* they’re wrong, and *how* to respond
5 Pro-Choice Perspectives starting with this . . .

1. “It’s my body, so it’s my choice.”

Have you heard that? It’s a woman’s body, so it’s her choice; No it’s not

If that were true, then a pregnant woman would have 4 arms, 4 legs, 2 brains, 2 hearts, and 2 sets of reproductive organs – sometimes both female *and* male

Not only that, but from the moment of fertilization, the unborn child is a distinct human being with a unique set of DNA, unlike that of the mother

It’s not your body

Not only that, but proximity does not determine identity

There are two of you *before* birth, just like there are two of you *after* birth

The fact that you carry your child inside your *womb* before birth, and inside your *car* seat after birth, makes no difference

They are a distinct human being, inside or out

Which means it is not your choice to take their life

To say otherwise, is to play God with the life of another

2. “It’s unfair to bring unwanted children into the world.”

First of all, there’s no such thing as an unwanted child – not to God, not in this country

There are roughly 1.5 million families in the US waiting to adopt a child

And the National Council for Adoption estimates that if abortion were made illegal, only 11% of women would give their babies up for adoption

That’s about 130k kids to satisfy 1.5 million families

They’re wanted

But even if they weren’t, the solution is not to kill them

Since when did wanted or unwanted become a legitimate guideline for life or death?

And if it is, does it hold true *after* birth as well, when your child is screaming at 2 in the morning and you don’t want them anymore?

- “Every child a wanted child” is a good slogan from Planned Parenthood

But the key is how you end the sentence

They would say, “Every child a wanted child . . . and if they’re not, abort them”

When they s/b saying, “Every child a wanted child . . . So let’s learn to want them more, or place them in homes where they are”

Just b/c your baby will interrupt your life and infringe on your career, doesn’t make it okay to abort her

Yes, it’s your life, and you can do with it as you please

But not at the expense of someone else’s life – born *or* unborn

When it comes to the innocent – your right to liberty does not supersede their right to life

The 3rd Pro-choice Perspective for which we must educate ourselves is . . .

3. “Sometimes abortion is therapeutic for those involved.”

You know, the Doctor advises you to have a “Therapeutic Abortion” b/c the child either won’t make it, or will be disabled, or will just mess up your life

Can you tell me what's so therapeutic about taking the life of your child, and then wondering what might have been for the rest of your life?

Can you tell me what's so therapeutic about guilt?

Can you tell me what's so therapeutic about adverse health affects, sometimes for the rest of your life?

And since when did disabilities become a standard for birth?

Healthy child or unhealthy, there's nothing therapeutic about an abortion – especially for the child

It's a fallacy for which we must educate ourselves

And a sin for which we must repent – b/c a life is a life, disabled or not

4. “I’m not pro-abortion, but I am pro-choice”

Or, I’m personally pro-life, but publicly pro-choice

That's the lamest, weakest argument I've ever heard on this issue

When is it ever right to condone wrong? Never

It's never right to overlook or ignore such a terrible wrong

And it's ridiculously inconsistent to say so

It's like saying, “I’m personally against child abuse, but I defend my neighbor's right to smack the snot out of *his* kid if he wants to”

Or, “I’m not necessarily in favor of wife-beating, but if that's what works for you, who am I to impose my morality on others?”

See what I mean? It's not only lame, but it's inconsistent

Closely related is the bumper sticker . . .

5. “Don’t like abortion, don’t have one.”

IOW, back off; If you don't like what's going on, don't participate

That's like saying, “If you don't like slavery, don't own a slave”

Or, “If you don't like the Holocaust, don't kill a Jew”

Or if you don't like drug abuse, don't take drugs

That kind of thinking doesn't make the act any less wrong

If slavery is wrong, it's wrong for everybody

If genocide is wrong, it's wrong for everybody

And if abortion is wrong, it's wrong for everybody

Just b/c *you* think it's okay, doesn't make it right

- Nor is it okay for the rest of us to stand idly by, silent and uninformed
Ignoring the issue and hoping it goes away is not the answer

We must educate ourselves, and come to grips with the fact that . . .

Abortion is a convenient way to hide sin, avoid consequences, skirt responsibility, and escape shame

And if it weren't at the expense of a child's life, no big deal

But it is, and for that reason we cannot remain uninformed – we must learn to do good

Nor can we remain silent; We must . . .

Speak up (Prov 31:8)

Prov 31:8 – *Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.*

Or, for the rights of all who are sons of passing away – i.e. children of death

We must speak up for the unborn

Whether it's personal conversations with people at work

Or public conversations in politics, or writing editorials to the newspapers

We must speak for those who can't

Silence is not an option for those who Live for One

- But *how* we speak up, makes all the difference – b/c it's a *heart* issue
Especially among those who have suppressed the guilt of an abortion
They hold very strongly to a pro-choice position I believe, b/c to do otherwise would be self-condemning, and force them to deal with the guilt and pain they'd rather avoid

That being the case, this is a touchy issue

Especially when you add the passion of those who are pro-life to the mix

All of which means, that when we speak up, we must . . .

Remain calm

Otherwise your emotions will overwhelm them, and they will cease to listen

All they'll hear is your red face . . .

Mistaking your passion for the *issue*, as *anger* towards *them*

If that happens, you've not only lost the argument, but more importantly, you've missed the opportunity to speak for those who can't

Truly a *soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger* (Prov 15:1)

Avoid exaggeration

Nothing kills an argument faster than to realize that the person is exaggerating

The truth will speak for itself, if you speak up for the truth

So stick to the facts and stick to what you know

If you don't know the answer to a question, say so; Be honest

And then tell them you'll look into it, and follow up

But whatever you do, avoid exaggeration

Ask questions

Thought-provoking questions

Not for the sake of pinning them against the wall

Or showing them how much you know

But rather, to get them to think about things they may have never considered

Asked them what you call it when someone has a heartbeat and brainwaves (life)

And what you call it when they don't (death)

And if they see anything wrong with stopping those things in the unborn

And if not, why not (probably b/c they don't think the unborn is a real person)

And if that's the case, on what basis? And is that objective?

And does that line of thinking hold true for everyone, or is it just special pleading in this case – drawing an arbitrary line between life and death, at the birth canal?

Ask good questions

Always remembering that this is an issue of the heart that the best arguments will never change – only God can do that

But he may very well do so by using your words

So speak up, speak the truth, ask questions, and remain calm

Get involved (Prov 24:10-12)

Educate yourself, speak up, and get involved

Prov 24:10-12 – IOW *do* something for those who are being taken away to death

And be careful of pleading ignorance on the issue in order to shirk your responsibility, b/c God knows your heart

He knows that you're well aware of the issue; He knows what you know

And he *will* hold you accountable for what you should have done, based on the knowledge and ability you have to carry it out

He will repay you according to your work it says

Which is why we *must* get involved – and every single one of us can start by praying

That's the first way to get involved . . .

Pray

Pray for a heart of compassion for the unborn

I think many of us lack a passion for *abortion*, b/c we lack *compassion* for the unborn

So pray for it

And pray that he would convince those thinking about an abortion, to refrain

And pray that the laws of our nation would change, and that God would continue to have mercy on us in the meantime

Volunteer

The CPC right here in the QC's needs faithful, steady, teachable volunteers

People they can count on; People who are team players

People who will do whatever is needed

Get involved by volunteering

Give

Not only your time and effort, but your money

Ministries like CPC are doing this full time, 365 days a year

And it doesn't happen without money

And if you know a young woman *personally* who is pregnant and needs financial help – help her; and put her in touch with our church as well

And give your *stuff* too

In addition to free pregnancy testing, ultra-sound, education, counseling, materials . . .

CPC also has a "Clothing Room Ministry" for expectant mothers and their babies

A place where you can donate diapers, baby clothes, maternity clothes, new bottles/pacifiers, and even gently used cribs

Open your home

It could be for a pregnant woman, or to provide foster care, or to adopt a baby

Whatever it is, open your home

And if you decide to move this way, don't expect things to happen overnight

It takes time to work through the process

And time to establish trust with the organizations that place people and kids

If you're looking for a place to start in this respect, contact Dave Merrifield, our Director of Global Outreach – he can point you in the right direction

Or get online and start doing some research on your own, starting with the National Council for Adoption

And by all means, ask around – there are many families right here in our church who already open their home, and would love to share their experience and connections

- Whatever you do – get involved, speak up, and educate yourself

Because the battle rages . . .

And the way of compassion, justice, truth is always best