

“The Bible and Abortion!”

Psalm 139:13-16

Intro. – In the June 22, 1981 edition of *Newsweek* magazine, on page 92, George Will wrote the following: “Abortion is the most frequently performed operation in the United States. One and one-half million abortions were performed in 1980, about one-third of all pregnancies end in abortion.”

These statistics remain true and should illustrate the extent of the problem presenting itself to us today. Abortion is legal in these United States, but is it moral? The above statistics will also illustrate how important it is for the Christian to be properly informed concerning this.

Dr. Bernard N. Nathanson, M.D., was the former director of the world’s largest abortion clinic. It was located in New York City. After supervising the aborting over 60,000 pregnancies, he had his thinking changed by viewing a real-life abortion through an ultrasound. He wrote a book entitled *Aborting America*. He was the narrator to a well know documentary on anti-abortion called *The Silent Scream*. Here is a purely humanistic doctor who chides the Bible and did not want to be identified in any way with Christianity; yet, he comes to a conclusion consistent with God’s Word!

What is my point in all of this? We who do accept the Bible as God’s final/complete revelation, must come to the same conclusion as did Dr. Nathanson; only, the basis for our conclusion must be the Bible alone!

Purpose: to come to a Biblical stand on the matter of abortion

We hope to accomplish this by addressing the following:

I The WHAT of a Person

- January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court ruled in a case simply known as Roe vs Wade. This decision opened the flood gate to the death of millions of babies since. In that decision the following was stated: “The word ‘person’ as used in the fourteenth amendment, does not include the unborn.”
 - this is crucial in the whole abortion debate: is the unborn child a person or simply a “fetus”?
 - the Bible makes clear the unborn is just as much a person as you and I are person:
- A. Only Humans Are Persons
1. From the very beginning we’re told man (using the term universally speaking) is special... God created all and said it was “good” – but then He created man and said it was “very good.”
 2. Why? – unlike animals and other earthly life – humans are eternal beings
 3. Because of this, only human beings are “persons” *made in the image of God*
 - a. God is *spirit* (John 4:24); therefore God is personal
 - b. we are *spirit*; therefore, we are persons!
 - c. such is the essence of being made in God’s image – eternal being, eternal persons!
- B. The Implications Behind Personhood
1. In short = humans *alone* have the natural capacity for a personal relationship/fellowship with God.
 2. This quality of personhood belongs to unborn babies, as much as, to born babies &/or adults!
 - unborn baby hasn’t developed conscious relationship with God, but he/she has capacity for it!
 3. Thus, human life, because it is in God’s image, has been placed under special protection by God = “You shall not murder.”
 4. This is the Bible’s basic rationale for opposing abortion – abortion is deliberately murdering innocent life! It stands condemned by God Himself!

II The WHEN of a Person

- when does a human life begin? When does a *fetus* receive their soul? At what point does a developing baby become a person? According to the U.S. Supreme Court – “at birth”
 - two lines of evidence to prove the *when* of a person suggest something more conclusive:
- A. The Testimony of Medical Science

1. “At conception” – the fertilization of a single cell is unique – not a part of the mother’s body – it contains everything a full grown adult will have – simply needs time/nourishment to grow.
2. 21 days = backbone, spinal cord, central nervous system and a heart.
3. 1st month = arms/legs, head with eyes, ears nose and mouth – digestive system works... ¼ inch long, but is 10,000 times larger than at conception.
4. 2nd month = baby is fully formed – finger/foot prints.
5. 3rd month = kicks, turn, frown, has fingernails etc.

Is this a *fetus* or is this a person? A person according to medical science... How could be anything else?!

B. The Testimony of God’s Word

1. Note: the Bible nowhere specifically discusses the personhood of the unborn; instead, it *assumes*
2. Our text good example of this – David describes his prenatal existence in personal terms – “me”...
3. Others whose personal identity is affirmed while they were yet in the womb:
 - a. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:5)
 - b. Paul (Galatians 1:15)
 - c. John Baptizer (Luke 1:15)
 - d. Jesus (Luke 1:41-44)
4. Galatians 5:20 – condemns as *deeds of the flesh* practice of sorcery or witchcraft:
 - a. Greek φαρμακεια (farmakia) = where we get our word pharmacy = lit. means “witch doctoring by using drugs...”
 - b. common practice by ancient women was to visit such “medicine men” to obtain drugs to induce an abortion... “morning after pill” not at all new!

Thus, Bible speaks of unborn life same way as “born life” – no magical line is crossed when baby born...

III The WHY of a Person

- why did God make man in His own image? – Answers the *purpose* for life = choice, the choice of living *for* or *against* the God of all.
- abortion takes this choice away – in the process and procedures used and the resulting problems reveal:

A. Procedures Used

- as unpleasant as it is, must briefly describe how some of these are done:

 1. 1st three months (trimester) = 2 common procedures:
 - a. D & C = scraping of womb using a sharp instrument removes the baby and placenta...
 - b. suction method = baby and placenta simply vacuumed out ripping into pieces...
 2. 2nd three months (trimester) = use 2 common procedures:
 - a. salt-poisoning = remove amniotic fluid and replace with salt solution. For next hour baby breaths, swallows this saline solution while the whole outer body is burned raw...
 - b. hysterotomy = c-section where the baby is brought out and simply “discarded”
 3. 3rd three months (trimester) = partial birth abortion = procedure so gruesome it would not behoove me even to describe...
 - note: 2 forms of contraceptives (IUD and “morning after pill”) uses the abort method and not the preventive method...

B. Problems Resulting

1. Takes choice away from a “person”
2. Psychological price(s) to be paid... recent findings concerning this are disturbing...
3. Abortion (including matters of rape – remember baby is innocent and not guilty of father’s crime) is the killing (murder) of innocent life.
4. What of mother’s life in danger? Save the mother and then try to save the baby...
5. Defect in the baby? Again, who is man to determine who lives and who does not?
6. What about the right of the mother?... The baby is NOT her body... Baby as a person has rights!

Conclusion: The WHAT, WHEN and WHY of a person answers the matter of the Bible and Abortion. May our thinking always be governed by God’s Word and may His people become more and more the conscience of society. Amen and amen!!

On August 24, 1983, a baby was found in the sewage treatment plant on Old Frankfort Pike near Lexington, Kentucky. On September 2, 1983, Wayne Smith, preacher of the Southland Christian Church, Lexington, KY conducted the memorial services. The message delivered at the graveside was as follows:

“We are here this morning to mourn the passing of a child. Our presence speaks loudly of the dignity we hold for human life. Throwing away life is an unconscionable act. There is good reason to believe the little one we remember today is an aborted child – one of 4,000 per day in America.

The time has come for righteous anger. In all the wars the United States has fought since the Revolutionary War, including the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, the number of Americans killed totaled 775,000. Last year, in one year’s time, we killed twice that number of Americans in the name of ‘freedom of choice for women.’

We have doubled Hitler’s death count. He murdered 6 million Jews. We have murdered 12 million babies.

The Bible says that we are to ‘choose life’ (Deuteronomy 30:19). The abortionists choose death. The Bible says, God hates ‘hands that shed innocent blood’ (Proverbs 6:17). The abortionists shed innocent blood.

Some say the fetus is not a human being, but God said to Jeremiah, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations’ (Jeremiah 1:5).

The U.S. Supreme Court says a fetus is not a person. But the Holy Spirit inspired David to write: ‘You knit me together in my mother’s womb... my frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place... your eyes saw my unformed body’ (Psalm 139:13,15-16). Likewise, speaking to Isaiah, God said, ‘I am the Lord your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb’ (Isaiah 44:24). Who is right about the nature of the fetus? God or the abortionist?

Our Declaration of Independence states that men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights and that among these are ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.’ What has happened to these rights? They have fallen victim to secular humanism, a philosophy which rejects God and exalts man; yet, rejoices over the slaughter of human babies while weeping over the killing of whales and the bald eagle.

‘Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness’ (Isaiah 5:20).

‘The Lord is slow to anger... but the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished’ (Nahum 1:3). This nation is crying out for judgment. We are kindling the wrath of God. As in the days of the children of Israel, ‘God looks for righteousness, but He hears cries of distress’ (Isaiah 5:7). Therefore, ‘Because we have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and have despised the Word of the Holy One of Israel, the Lord’s anger burns against us and His hand will strike us down’ (Isaiah 5:24-25).

The hand of God can be stayed only by our repentance. We must repeal the abominable decision of the Supreme Court. January 22, 1983, was the tenth anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion. During the past ten years it is estimated that a minimum of 12 million babies have been aborted in this country.