

Formed By God

Introduction. It has been a difficult month for those who believe in the sanctity of life. Early this month, a federal judge ruled that the morning-after abortion drug Plan B must be made available over the counter to women of all ages, including those 16 and under. Also, the trial of Kermit Gosnell, a Philadelphia abortion provider whose clinic was called "a house of horrors," who is accused of murdering eight viable babies by cutting the back of their necks to kill them has been in the news all month.

Two quotes from abortion doctors will shock and sadden you by allowing you to peer inside the mind and motives of those who provide abortions each day in America. Dr. Randall said, "They [the women] are never allowed to look at the ultrasound because we knew that if they so much as heard the heart beat, they wouldn't want to have an abortion." Dr. Szenes said, "You have to become a bit schizophrenic. In one room, you encourage the patient that the slight irregularity in the fetal heart is not important, that she is going to have a fine, healthy baby. Then, in the next room you assure another woman, on whom you just did a saline abortion, that it is a good thing that the heartbeat is already irregular ... she has nothing to worry about, she will NOT have a live baby ... All of a sudden one noticed that at the time of the saline infusion there was a lot of activity in the uterus. That's not fluid currents. That's obviously the fetus being distressed by swallowing the concentrated salt solution and kicking violently and that's to all intents and purposes, the death trauma ... somebody has to do it, and unfortunately we are the executioners in this instance."

The toll abortion has taken on the American culture is immense. Since 1973, there have been approximately 50 million abortions performed in the United States. In contrast, about 500,000 American soldiers were killed in the Civil War and about 16,000,000 in World War II.

The fact an act is legal according to civil law does not make it morally right (Acts 5:29). Christians live by a higher standard, so we need to know what the Bible teaches about abortion.

I. ***Is The Life In The Womb A Human Individual?***

- A. The fundamental question to be answered is whether or not the life that has been conceived in the mother's womb is a human person, separate and distinct from the mother.
 1. The Bible does not use the phrases "human" or "human being" to refer to anyone. Instead, the Bible identifies a human person by using terms that imply humanity.
 - a) "Children" or "sons" in the mother's womb (Genesis 25:21-22; Ruth 1:11).
 - b) A "man child" is conceived (Job 3:3).

- c) "Infants" that never saw light (Job 3:16).
 - d) A "brother" in the womb (Hosea 12:3).
 - e) A woman conceived a "son" (Luke 1:36).
 - f) A "mother" of an unborn child and a "baby" in the womb (Luke 1:41-44).
2. No human being anywhere in the Bible is identified by terms that are more distinctly human than these. The terms "child," "son," "baby," etc., clearly imply a separate human individual, not just a part of the mother's body like her hands, feet, ears, etc.
 3. Furthermore, God makes no distinction between born and unborn life. He uses exactly the same terms for both. To Him they are the same nature.
- B. There is a parallel to the Godhead.
1. Some claim that God the Father and Jesus are the same individual, not separate individuals. But a person cannot be his own father or his own son. A father and his son make two separate individuals (cf. John 8:16-18).
 2. In the same way, when a woman has given birth to a son or daughter, she and her child are two separate individuals. A mother cannot be the same person as her son. Likewise, when a woman has conceived, the life in her womb is her "son" (or "daughter") and she is its "mother."
- C. People who favor abortion disguise the humanity of the unborn.
1. Abortion defenders universally refuse to use Bible language when referring to an unborn baby. They call it a "fetus" or "the product of conception" or "an unwanted pregnancy" or "foreign tissue." They will never call it a "baby," "child," or "infant." Why? Because they refuse to admit it has the same nature that God says it has!
 2. Most abortions occur before the baby is two months old. By this time, all major organs have begun developing, the heart is beating and circulating blood, brain waves can be measured, fingers and toes are distinguishable, bones are forming, and it is clearly recognizable as human. By the time the baby is three months old, no new body parts will be added. Yet it may be killed with practically no restrictions anytime during the first three months, and with few restrictions afterwards.

II. ***How Should We Treat An Unborn Child?***

- A. The scriptures say the unborn life in the mother's womb is a human individual from conception on. The same scriptures establish rules for the treatment of a child or baby.
1. God says we should appreciate our children (Psalm 127:3-5; 128:3-5).

2. God says to raise our children to do His will (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).
 3. God says to love our children (Titus 2:4).
 4. God says people "without natural affection" are worthy of death (Romans 1:31-32).
- B. Commands are given in the Bible to respect the life given by God.
1. "Do not sin against the child" (Genesis 42:22; cf. 37:20-22).
 2. The innocent and the righteous slay thou not (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 23:7).
 3. God hates hands that shed innocent blood (Deuteronomy 27:25; Proverbs 6:16-17).
 4. Murderers will be outside the holy city in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8; 22:15).
 5. Murder comes from the heart and defiles the one who does it (Matthew 15:19-20).
 6. If you love your neighbor, you will not kill (Romans 13:8-10).

Conclusion. The Bible teaches that the life which has been conceived and lives in a woman's womb is a living human being, a separate and distinct person from its parents. Therefore, it has just as much right to live as any other human being, and deliberately killing it would be just as wrong as killing any other innocent human being. Abortion is wrong because it is a failure to love, appreciate, and care for a human baby.

The Bible says abortion is wrong, but it also gives something that humanistic beliefs cannot give: a source of true forgiveness for guilt. God will forgive our sins if we will come to Him according to His conditions.