

Abortion

And What You Can Do About It

Lee Delbridge

Introduction

On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 7-2 that a state could not prevent a woman from having an abortion during the first 6 months of pregnancy. In the 33 years since, there have been 45 million abortions and it has become a political “hot potato.” Sixty percent of the women who have abortions are under 25 years of age and eighty percent of them are unmarried. The reason for having an abortion that is most often stated is that they do not have enough money to raise the child.

Abortion is the induced expulsion of an unborn child in order to terminate its life. It is not the same as a premature birth or a miscarriage. Abortion is the intentional stopping of a process that has already started. We use the phrase to “abort a mission” to mean we started it, but stopped it before it was completed. When we abort a child, the child has already started to develop and we intentionally stop the development.

To over-simplify the arguments: one side says that a woman has a right to choose what to do with her own body (pro-choice) and the other side says that it is wrong to intentionally take the life of another person, even if it is your child (pro-life).

The real question

What is being “aborted”? Is it only a part of the mother’s body or is it a real human being? If it is a human being – a real life -- then abortion is murder and, of course, should not be done. That leads to the question of when does life begin. Some say life begins at birth—when the baby takes its first breath. Others say life begins the first time the mother feels the baby move in her womb. Others say life begins at conception. This last position is the only one that makes sense to me.

Scriptures That Relate Directly To the Issue of Abortion

The Basic Law Against Abortion

Exodus 20:13

You shall not murder.

Babies Have Blood & Heartbeat 31 Days After Conception

Deuteronomy 19:10

So innocent blood will not be shed in the midst of your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance, and bloodguiltiness be on you. (Compare Proverbs 6:16-19)

God Knew Jeremiah Before He Was Born

Jeremiah 1:4-5

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

The Word for Baby Used of John the Baptist While In his Mother’s Womb

Luke 1:41

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

To Obey God’s Laws About Sex Is Part of the Solution To The Abortion Problem

Exodus 20:14

You shall not commit adultery.

I Corinthians 6:9-10

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Children Are A Gift From God

Psalms 127:3

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

Genesis 33:5

He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, “Who are these with you?” So he said, “The children whom God has graciously given your servant.”

A Person Is Made In The Image of God

Genesis 1:27

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Lee’s Note

(I believe that life begins at conception -- therefore, abortion is murder.)

ANSWERS TO THE OBJECTIONS

Genesis 2:7 seems to teach that a person becomes alive only when he can breathe.

This verse deals with God giving life to a being he created. It does not deal with the issue of whether a baby in its mother's womb has life or does not have life.

You have no right to tell a woman what she can or cannot do with her own body.

The Bible’s view is that a person's body is a stewardship from God and not a possession. (Compare Genesis 1:27; Romans 14:7-8; I Corinthians 6:19-20) Also, it is a very thin line between whether that baby is a part of the mother's body or an entirely new person (life).

If you tell a woman she cannot have an abortion, then you should be willing to adopt the baby she produces.

This is an argument to divert the attention away from the real issue. The real issue is that abortion is murder. For me to take a stand against slavery does not mean I have to hire all ex-slaves. For me to take a stand against Nursing Homes mistreating their patients does not mean I have to personally care for all the older people who have been mistreated at a nursing home. For me to take a stand against child abuse does not mean I have to adopt all children who are abused. And for me to take a stand against abortion does not mean I have to adopt any or all the babies that would have been aborted.

How can you say you are a Bible believing Christian and be against abortion since the word "abortion" is not in the Bible?

This is another attempt to divert attention from the real issue. The word "Bible" is not in the Bible and yet I use it constantly. The word "Trinity" is not in the Bible and yet the concept is clearly taught. While the word "abortion" is not in the Bible, the Bible clearly teaches against murder. It clearly teaches the value of human life. It emphasizes the value of children.

How about the pro-lifers who harass, harm and even kill doctors who perform abortion?

To hurt or kill another human being is wrong. Those pro-lifers who do such things are clearly wrong! It does not change the fact that abortion is also wrong.

Don't you think we should allow abortion because sometimes the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest?

There are very few cases of pregnancies that result from rape. I cannot locate the figures on pregnancies resulting from incest, but my guess is that it would be very, very low. Both rape and incest are terrible sins. If pregnancy does result, it would be a terrible emotional strain on the woman. But since I believe abortion is murder, then I think we would only be adding another sin to the situation by aborting the baby.

Why can't you Christians be tolerant of people who choose to have an abortion? No one forces a person to have an abortion. Just let each person decide for him or herself.

Toleration is a good quality in areas of religious or political opinions. Toleration is a bad quality when it comes to issues of morality. I am not tolerant of a person who takes a gun and shoots an innocent person driving down the road. I am not tolerant of a person who believes the freedom of speech allows him to enter a crowded theater and yell "fire". I am not tolerant of a drunk driver who kills a family of five innocent people. And I am not tolerant of a person who willingly takes the life of an unborn baby.

A fetus is not a person since it cannot exist on its own without the "support" of its mother. It does not have "personhood".

At what point does it become a person? A baby cannot exist without "help" from others for a number of years after birth. Is it not a person until it is old enough to take care of itself? Life begins at conception and abortion takes the life of a person!

Stages of Development

According to the National Right to Life, a pregnancy normally covers forty weeks, beginning at fertilization, when the sperm and the ovum meet to form a single cell. All the characteristics of each person's sex, eye color, shoe size, intelligence, etc. are determined at fertilization by the baby's genetic code in the 46 human chromosomes. Every person begins as a separate single cell; nothing new is added except oxygen and nutrition. If the process is not interrupted, a human being will live approximately nine months in the mother's uterus and decades outside of it.

At Three Weeks: The baby's heart begins to beat and pump blood.

At Six Weeks: The baby has brain waves that can be measured with an electroencephalograph. (The end of human life can be defined as *the cessation of brain waves*, but many ignore the scientific evidence of brain waves in unborn babies).

At Seven Weeks: The baby is swimming in the amniotic sac with a natural swimmers stroke and is already kicking.

At Eight Weeks: The baby begins swallowing.

At Nine Weeks: Parents can watch their baby moving around inside the uterus on an ultrasound scanner.

At Ten to Eleven Weeks: The baby can *breathe* amniotic fluid and urine, is sensitive to touch, and can seize an object placed in his or her hand.

At Eleven Weeks: All the baby's organ systems are functioning. Although still so small that the baby could stand on an adult's little fingertip, his or her little feet are perfectly shaped. The baby has a skeletal structure, nerves, and circulation, as well as eyelids, nails, and fingerprints.

At Fourteen Weeks: The baby's heart pumps several quarts of blood through his or her body every day.

At Eighteen Weeks: The child is perfectly formed.

At Nineteen Weeks: The baby can conceivably survive outside the womb. Kenya King was born in Florida on June 16, 1985, at nineteen weeks, or just a little more than 4½ months after her life began. She weighed eighteen ounces.

Interesting Case Studies

Would you consider abortion in any of the following four situations?

1. There is a preacher and wife who are very, very poor. They already have fourteen children, and now she finds out she is pregnant with the fifteenth. They are living in tremendous poverty. Considering their poverty and the excessive world population, would you consider recommending an abortion?
2. The father is sick with a bad cold; the mother has tuberculosis (TB). They have four children. The first is blind, second is dead, third is deaf, and fourth has TB. She finds that she is pregnant again. Given their extreme situation, would you consider recommending an abortion?
3. A white man has raped a thirteen-year-old black girl, and she became pregnant. If you were her parents, would you consider recommending an abortion?
4. A teenage girl is pregnant. She is not married. Her fiancé is not the father of the baby, and he is concerned. Would you consider recommending an abortion?

If you said *yes* to the first case, you just killed John Wesley, one of the great evangelists in the nineteenth century. If you said *yes* to the second case, you killed Ludwig von Beethoven. If you said

yes to the third case, you killed Ethel Waters, the great black gospel singer who thrilled audiences for many years at Billy Graham Crusades around the world. And, if you said yes to the fourth case, you killed Jesus Christ.

What You and I Can Do About Abortion

1. We can teach that sex outside of marriage is a sin and try to persuade unmarried people to practice abstinence (Exodus 20:14; Romans 13:9; I Cor. 6:9-10, 18-20).
2. We can teach that abortion is never an option and try our very best to persuade people never to consider it.
3. Pray for Judges in our courts who have approved and will approve abortion.
4. Pray for doctors who perform abortions and especially for doctors who refuse to perform abortions.
5. Support ministries that counsel women against abortion and offers adoptions as an alternate.
6. Share God's forgiveness to women who have had an abortion. We need to tell them that it was wrong and also tell them that God can and will forgive them if they accept Jesus as their Savior and confess their sins.
7. Vote for political candidates who are against abortions.