

ABORTION

ONE OF THE MOST TALKED ABOUT SUBJECTS IN OUR NATION. SINCE ROE v WADE IN 1973 THIS COUNTRY HAS BEEN OPEN TO LEGALIZED ABORTION. MUCH PROTEST ON BOTH SIDES. NOW TWENTY YEARS LATER STILL A HOT TOPIC!

1} IS ABORTION RIGHT OR WRONG, IN GOD'S SIGHT? WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

AS THE MEDICAL TECHNIQUES OF ABORTION WERE NOT READILY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE OF BIBLE DAYS, THERE IS NO REALLY SPECIFIC STATEMENT IN THE BIBLE. THE ONLY MENTION THAT MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT IS IN EXODUS:

Exodus 21:22-25 "And if men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she has a miscarriage, yet there is no further injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him; and he shall pay as the judges decide. "But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

THIS DOES NOT REALLY ANSWER THE QUESTION FOR US AS IT IS ARGUED BOTH WAYS. IT IS WRONG TO CAUSE A WOMAN TO ABORT, BUT THE PUNISHMENT IS NOT VERY SEVERE SO THE CRIME MUST NOT BE VERY SERIOUS!

A} WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE?

HUMAN BEINGS ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD:

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

WE CONSIST OF BOTH A BODY AND SOUL:

Matthew 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

GOD IS THE GIVER OF LIFE:

Acts 17:25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things;

B} WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN? WHEN IS THE "FETUS" A PERSON?

Job 31:15 "Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb? JOB SAID GOD MADE "ME", THE PERSON JOB, IN THE WOMB!

Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. DAVID USES THE PERSONAL PRONOUN "I" FROM CONCEPTION!

Psalm 139:13-16 For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the

earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

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."

BIRTH IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF LIFE .. IT IS SIMPLY ONE MILESTONE IN THE ROAD OF LIFE.

Luke 1:41 And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

JOHN IS A BABY, EVEN IN WOMB!

Luke 1:44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. **JOHN NOT ONLY IS A BABY, BUT HAS EMOTIONS IN THE WOMB! THE WORD USED HERE FOR BABY IS THE SAME WORD USED ELSEWHERE FOR BABIES ALREADY BORN:**

Luke 2:12 "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:16 And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

Luke 18:15 And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He might touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they began rebuking them.

PETER USED THE SAME WORD TO DESCRIBE HOW CHRISTIANS SHOULD DESIRE GOD'S WORD, BUT HE INSERTS THE ADJECTIVE "NEWBORN" TO SHOW THAT A DISTINCTION NEEDED TO BE MADE BETWEEN UNBORN BABIES AND NEWBORN BABIES!

I Peter 2:2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS A LIVING, BREATHING, JOYFUL HUMAN BEING, SIX MONTHS BEFORE HE CAME FORTH FROM THE WOMB!

C} GOD HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED THE TAKING OF INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE, BEGINNING WITH CAIN WHO KILLED HIS BROTHER, ABEL!

Romans 13:9 For this, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Amos 1:13 Thus says the Lord, "For three transgressions of the sons of Ammon and for four I will not revoke its punishment, Because they ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead In order to enlarge their borders.

D} IS A WOMAN'S BODY HER OWN? CAN SHE CHOOSE WHAT TO DO WITH HER OWN BODY? CERTAINLY! SHE CAN CHOOSE TO USE HER BODY FOR GOOD OR FOR EVIL. SHE CAN USE IT FOR PROMISCUOUS SEX, OR FOR HELPING OTHERS. JUST AS OTHER THINGS, GOD HAS PLACED LIMITS ON WHAT WE SHOULD DO WITH AND TO OUR BODIES:

Romans 12:1,2 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual

service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

I Corinthians 6:19,20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

E) HOW ARE WE TO COMBAT THE SIN OF VOLUNTARY ABORTION?

1) WITHIN OUR OWN RANKS:

WE MUST MAKE KNOWN GOD'S WILL IN THE MATTER. WE MUST SUBMIT TO THAT WILL AND USE OUR BODIES FOR GOOD RATHER THAN EVIL.

2) WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE WORLD?

SHOULD WE JOIN THE PROTEST MARCHES AND SIT-INS AT ABORTION CLINICS? CERTAINLY WE NEED TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD. EACH MUST MAKE HIS/HER OWN DECISION, ASKING GOD FOR WISDOM TO DO THE RIGHT THING .. THE BEST THING.

THERE ARE SOME MORE TROUBLING AND COMPLICATED QUESTIONS TO WHICH I DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS:

3) HOW DO WE GO ABOUT CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE THERE IS LESS OF THE SITUATIONS WHERE WOMEN THINK THEY "NEED" ABORTIONS? WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE BECOME PREGNANT FIND OTHER WAYS TO DEAL WITH THEIR SITUATION. ARE WE WILLING TO BECOME FOSTER PARENTS OR ADOPTIVE PARENTS TO HELP MEET THIS NEED? IF WE ARE NOT WILLING TO HELP, SHOULD WE BE CONDEMNING?

4) WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE HAD ABORTIONS? HOW DO WE TREAT THEM? HOW DO WE REACH OUT TO THE HURT AND DEPRESSION THAT EVENTUALLY COMES? CAN WE BE FORGIVING AS JESUS WAS TO THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY?

E) THIS SIN LIKE OTHERS IS FORGIVABLE:

Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Acts 2:36-38 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.