

The Value of Life: Abortion

Today, in this country, we find ourselves debating abortion. "My body, my choice." This has become the popular slogan (a clean one among some of the depraved ones out there being repeated) from those who are known as, "Pro-Choice." I want to say something at the beginning of this lesson: some topics are purely political and therefore do not deserve our time. However, some topics are moral and they bleed over into the political realm. This would be an example. So, they need to be discussed and understood, between Christians, as moral issues first and foremost. Also, there's a chance you may encounter this topic with friends or family with opposing views. To be clear: this lesson isn't about Republicans and Democrats. This isn't about a local preacher and brother in Christ airing his frustrations or opinions. This is a moral issue that our country is struggling with right now, especially while we're discussing *Roe v. Wade*. However, from a biblical viewpoint, the judgment has already come to a close. The verdict is in. Lastly, we want to discuss this in case one of our own ever finds themselves considering abortion. You don't want to wait until you're in that situation until, and now, for the first time, are attempting to understand the will of God.

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in His own image.

- Mankind alone was made in His image. We agree that mankind has value over all creation. Taking life is no small matter to the Lord.

Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

- We agree that animals have value, though they were not made in God's image. Therefore, man has greater value and should be cared for.

Now, to be fair, many who are pro-choice (though not all) do not recognize the child as being a child. They'll use the term "fetus" because they've been told it's not yet a child (though fetus is from Latin meaning "bringing forth of young"). So, the debate centers around *when life begins*. We've relied, once again, on those of the world who have specialized in this field. We turn to doctors. We turn to biology. While I don't take issue with science (and biology has confirmed that life begins at conception), is that where our argument lies? Christians need to be kind, but bold. Don't shy away from sharing your beliefs in God's word. If the only way we can reason with someone is by playing their own game (attempting logical parallels or leaning on science alone), have we truly helped them to see the big picture? Perhaps there's a time and place for it, but I fear we're missing the big picture. I admire those who discuss this issue without making it political, but rather plea with those struggling with what to do by reminding them of who God is, how we're all valuable and made in His image, and the truth that we're playing God and going down a road that leads to sin.

Does the God reveal His part in the creating of human life? While I do not believe the Bible is a science book (we desperately need to keep this in mind), that does not mean that God hasn't given us any insight into this topic.

Hosea 9:11 Ephraim's glory shall fly away like a bird— no birth, no pregnancy, no conception!

- There seems to be an acknowledged order of things in reverse order here. Conception, pregnancy and birth.
- **Ruth 4:13** So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Job 10:11; 31:15 You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews . . . Did not He who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

Ecclesiastes 11:5 As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

Jeremiah 1:5 "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."

Psalms 139:13–16 "For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

I don't want to interrupt the Creator while He's working. God is working. He's creating life. It is His choice and to take the life is (whether one sees it this way or not) playing God.

Israel understood, by implication of the word, that a child in the womb of their mother was just that: a child.

Exodus 21:22–25 "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

- The Code of Hammurabi along with the Middle Assyrian Law sought justice for women who were abused resulting in a miscarriage. The Assyrians would impale a woman on a stake if a woman had a miscarriage by her own act. So today, we hear women saying it will result in messy, coat-hanger abortions, which could potentially result in a woman dying. The Assyrians wouldn't have had a problem with that, because they would have killed her had she attempted to do so. They would leave them impaled to make a point. They refused them a proper burial.

Psalms 127:3–5 "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!"

- Some people don't understand the value of life because they do not seek to truly understand. They are not spiritual individuals.

- **1 Corinthians 2:14–16** “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”
- In fact, there are just evil people in the world.
 - **Romans 1:28–32** “And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.”
 - **Leviticus 20:1–5** “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Say to the people of Israel, Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. I myself will set my face against that man and will cut him off from among his people, because he has given one of his children to Molech, to make my sanctuary unclean and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do at all close their eyes to that man when he gives one of his children to Molech, and do not put him to death, then I will set my face against that man and against his clan and will cut them off from among their people, him and all who follow him in whoring after Molech.”
 - I fear that we’re still practicing, principally, the same religion today. We offer our children up in order to benefit our own lives. We’ve offered them to the god of this world.
- However, others are overwhelmed because they do not know what to do. I’m talking about those who truly do want to do right, but they feel they can’t care for their young ones the way they believe they should. They are overwhelmed and overwhelmed by the idea of the kind of life their young may experience. What happens if they experience great pain? Is life worth it if you’re filled with trials and tribulations?
 - **Job 3:11-19** “Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest, with kings and counselors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light? There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. There the prisoners are at ease together; they hear not the voice of the taskmaster. The small and the great are there, and the slave is free from his master.”
 - There was a period of time when even Job wished he was never born so he didn’t have to experience such pain this world can offer. If we’re honest, we can all sympathize with the thought. However, death of a child is still not the answer.

What can we do?

- **Hebrews 13:4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

- Brothers, take note of this passage: **Proverbs 23:22** Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.
 - It is true that when we're considering the life of the unborn, we should remember that life did not happen by one's self. It takes two. However, this also means the men have a responsibility. Brothers, if you transgress God's will and it results in pregnancy, be ready to be a father. She should not walk this road alone, but it's not hers alone to walk. You are a father who has given life.
- **Titus 2:4** and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,
 - Mommas, we talked about this recently. We need you to help out. So many women don't want to hear from men today because they feel they can't relate. Well, Mommas can relate. We need to hear from you. They need to hear from you. They need hope and encouragement. They need help loving their children. They need to hear that it's going to be okay.
- **James 1:26-27** If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
 - We spend time (understandably so) discussing how this was instruction to the individual rather than the whole. But let's not forget that it was meant to be practiced. Are we ready to help those in need? Are we willing to open our hearts, homes and wallets?
 - But let's consider as a whole: what if one of our own found themselves in financial need? With this group support our own? We have the authority to do so. I would pray we'd have the hearts to do so?