

Abortion

Introduction

1. In the beginning, when God created man and woman, He determined that they would marry and produce children.
2. But men have defiled the sexual relationship by committing all manner of fornication.
3. As a consequence, STD's have spread throughout the world like a plague.
4. But there is another consequence that has caused much debate in recent years—women who commit fornication become pregnant.
5. Rather than discouraging men and women from committing the sins which incur these consequences, men have instead sought ways to remove the consequences.
6. What is their solution to unwanted pregnancies? Abortion.

Discussion

I. What Is The Issue?

A. The definition of abortion.

1. To abort something means “to cause to cease or end at an early or premature stage...to terminate before completion” (Webster’s).
2. Abortion, therefore, is “the arrested development of an embryo or an organ at a more or less early stage” (Webster’s).
 - a. It is the *ending* or *termination* of a child’s life at a *premature* stage.
 - b. Rather than allowing a child to be born naturally, it is the removing of an unborn child from the mother’s womb before the child is able to sustain itself.
3. The vast majority of abortions take place because an expecting mother does not want to have the responsibility of caring for a child; therefore she aborts it and literally throws it away.

B. The whole issue comes down to one question: “When does life of a separate human being begin?”¹

1. Some may ask, “How can any person just throw away a baby before it is born?”
2. The reason many will give is that “Since the baby was not yet born it was never alive; therefore they are not destroying life, just removing cells and flesh from a woman’s womb.”
3. “The abortionist may refer to abortion as simply a process of limiting fertility. He may refer to it as killing the cells and tissues of conception. He may even refer to the early stages of development as ‘potential life’” (Buchanan, pg. 64).
4. This is the major argument used by proponents of abortion to overcome any objections to this procedure.
5. Other arguments have also been derived from the above argument.
6. “Pro Choice”
 - a. “The mother should have the right to choose.” Here again, the only way a mother has the right to choose whether or not to abort the child is if that child is not really alive.
 - b. Abortionists try to sugarcoat this issue by calling it “Pro Choice,” saying, “After all, who shouldn’t have the right to choose?”

¹ Bob Buchanan, *The Abortion Issue*. From Abstain from Every Form of Evil, pg. 63.

- c. But if the child is more than cells and flesh inside of the woman, if it is alive, then the destruction of life takes preeminence over a woman's right to choose. She does not have the right to decide whether or not that child's life may be taken from him/her.
- 7. "The Woman has the right to control her body."
 - a. Along the same lines as Pro Choice, many have argued that a woman should have the right to control what she does with her body.
 - b. "If she wants to have a baby, fine. If not, she should be able to control it."
 - c. Though the conclusion derived from this argument is way off the mark, the premise is actually quite accurate.
 - d. A woman should be able to control her body. The problem is that women are not controlling their bodies and, in most cases, that is why they become pregnant in the first place.
 - e. In the vast majority of cases, women were able to control whether or not to have sex, therefore they were able to control whether or not they became pregnant.
 - f. If a woman does not want a baby then she should control her body by not committing fornication.
 - g. If a woman does become pregnant, she should acknowledge that even though she has the right to control her own body, the baby inside of her is another body and not her own.
- C. So then, one of the questions we must answer is when does a child become alive? Before or after birth?

II. When Does Life Begin? Conception or Birth?

- A. Through science, doctors have been able to prove that there is life in the womb at the point of conception.
 - 1. They have been able to prove that at the point of conception the child is a "complex, dynamic, rapidly growing organism" (Buchanan, pg. 64).
 - 2. By the eighth week of development the child develops every part of his/her body so that he/she is a complete human being.
 - 3. "After the eighth week, no further original organs will form—everything that is already present will be found in the full-term baby. From this point until adulthood, when full growth is achieved somewhere between 25 and 27 years, the changes in the body will be mainly in dimension."
 - 4. The vast majority of abortions take place after this eight week period.
 - 5. Within the third month the child becomes active and begins to move and kick, bend his wrists, turn his head, frown, squint, and open his mouth.²
 - 6. All of this information is important and, for many, is the very crux of the issue.
 - 7. However, for the Christian there is another aspect that must be considered and is the ultimate determination as to whether abortion is immoral or not. That is...
- B. What does the Bible teach concerning life before birth?
 - 1. The Bible speaks of a child in the same manner both before and after birth. The word used to describe John the Baptist while he was still in his mother's womb, which is translated "babe" in Luke 1:41, is also used of infants and young children in Luke 2:12, 16; 18:15; 2 Tim. 3:16.

² "Abortion, The Medical Evidence Against," as quoted by Clifford Bajema, *Abortion And The Meaning of Personhood* (Baker, Grand Rapids), pp. 25-27.

2. Before John the Baptist was born he showed signs of life while in his mother's womb (Luke 1:41).
3. The Psalmist was formed by God in his mother's womb in Ps. 139:13-15.
4. In Job 3:11 Job said, "*Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?*"
 - a. In order for Job to have died at birth he must have been alive before birth.
 - b. In verses 13-14 Job said that had he died at birth he would have been at rest with kings and counselors.
 - c. If he was not alive before he was born, then how could he have been at rest? There would have been no soul to be at rest.
5. Jacob and Esau were spoken of as living children within their mother's womb, for they "*struggled together within her*" (Gen. 25:22).
6. God shows that He regards the life in the womb just as much as He regards the life outside of the womb. For while Jeremiah was still in his mother's womb God had a plan for him (Jer. 2:5).
7. If God regards children in the womb, so must we. There is life. Those who advocate and practice abortion are advocates of murder.

III. Why Is Abortion So Bad?

- A. Abortion is murder. It takes the life of a child.
 1. Murder is defined as "the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of one human being by another."
 2. The Lord who created man commanded, "*Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man*" (Gen. 9:6).
 3. "*But the cowardly...murderers...shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death*" (Rev. 21:8).
- B. Abortion shows a disregard for human life and the value of a child.
 1. The Bible describes man as created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
 2. For that reason it is a sin to hate our fellow man, let alone commit murder (1 John 4:20-21).
 3. "In the Bible, children are considered the heritage of the Lord (Ps. 127:3) and a 'blessing' (Ps. 128:3)" (Mike Willis, *Is Abortion Sinful?*, pg. 10).
 4. Men should have respect for human life and for the value God places upon children.
- C. "Without natural affection" is condemned in Romans 1:31.
 1. Some other versions of the Bible may translate the term used here as "unloving" or "heartless."
 2. It is translated "without natural affection" in the KJV and ASV because it means, "hard hearted toward kindred" (Thayer). "Especially of parents for children..." (Vine's).
 3. "This expression denotes the want of affectionate regard towards their children. The attachment of parents to children is one of the strongest in nature...And yet the apostle charges on the heathen generally the want of this affection. He doubtless refers here to the practice so common among heathens of *exposing* their children, or putting them to death" (Barne's Notes On The New Testament).
 4. Compare these comments with Ps. 106:37-38.
 5. Those who murder their own children today are guilty of this same crime; they are without natural affection.

6. Of such God has said they are “worthy of death.” *“Those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them”* (Rom. 1:32).

D. It promotes sexual immorality.

1. The vast majority of abortions occur with young women who have committed fornication or adultery and do not want their child.
2. Along with sexual disease, pregnancy is one of the consequences of unbridled lust and sexual immorality.
3. With abortion those consequences are taken away. Where there are no apparent consequences, men will practice evil all the more.
4. With the popularization of abortion, fornication is increasing as is the rate of abortions. More people are committing fornication now that they have found an easy way around the consequences.

Conclusion

1. We need to be aware of evils such as abortion.
2. Many in the world are accepting of this evil, and its acceptance is only increasing.
 - a. “On 22 January 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled on the Roe vs. Wade case, striking down Texas law prohibiting abortion. Since 1973 abortion has been legal in the United States.
 - b. “In the years since 1973 ruling, 20 million unborn babies have been slaughtered in American abortuaries” (Willis, pg. 1).
3. Concerning such things, Christians need to take a stand.
4. We need to be aware of such evil, let others know about it, and make sure our children are aware of it.

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Avondale church of Christ
1606 Glen Willow Rd., P.O. Box 421, Avondale, PA 19311
Phone: (610) 268-2088
Email: info@avondalechristians.com
Website: www.avondalechristians.com

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