

MODULE #2

Is Abortion a Sin?

As the result of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe vs. Wade, the unborn are not recognized as anyone or anything, only as a part of a woman's body – a "product of conception" whose fate is determined by her alone.

Yet, the unborn make up half of the population I have felt called to serve for over 30 years.

The most basic question regarding abortion that needs to be answered is whether God deems the unborn child a person. If the answer is "no," then there is no reason not to have the right to dispose of an unborn child if we don't want it. If the answer is "yes," then we must treat the unborn with all the love, concern and protection due to all other persons.

Man's laws and opinions on the unborn seem double-minded. On one hand, we have abortion on demand. On the other, the government allows the State to charge someone with a "double-murder" if a pregnant woman is murdered and as a result her unborn child dies.

The Word of God is never double-minded. It is clear and consistent. The very purpose of this Word is so that our Creator could make Himself known to his beloved creation. We must turn to the Word of God for a clear, consistent view on the status of the unborn child, as well as abortion.

While it may be true that the act of abortion is not specifically mentioned in Scripture, I do not believe this means God is silent on the unborn – or the preciousness of life in the womb. I believe it is necessary to look at the totality of Scripture and allow the whole context of the value of life (in and out of the womb) to speak where the precise word of abortion may be absent.

God Creates and Fashions Life in the Womb

Gen. 29:31 "When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren. So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben"

Job 31:15 "Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb?"

Isaiah 44:2, 24 "Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you" "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb; "I am the Lord, who makes all things"

Isaiah 49:1, 5 "The Lord has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of my mother He has made mention of My name." ... "And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be his servant"

Conception Marks the Beginning of an Individual's Life

2 Samuel 11:5 "And the woman conceived, so she sent and told David and said "I am with child."

1 Chronicles 7:23 "And when he went in to his wife, she conceived and bore a son; and he called his name Beriah, because tragedy had come upon his house."

Luke 1:36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren."

The Unborn are Treated as Persons in the Womb

Psalms 58:3 "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies."

Luke 1:36 "Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month."

Luke 1:41-44 "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

Psalms 139:13-16 "For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." (David considered God to be at work with him personally by his constant use of "I," "me" and "my.")

God's Purpose for Each is Operative Before Birth

Isaiah 49:1, 5, 15 "The Lord has called me from the womb; from the matrix of my mother He has made mention of my name."

"And now the Lord says, who formed me from the womb to be His servant."

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (Set apart for service.)

Luke 1:15 "for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born." (Filled with the Holy Spirit)

Galatians 1:15 "But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, was pleased" NIV (Set apart – consecrated.)

The Entity in the Womb is Considered a Baby-Pregnant Women are With Child

Luke 1:41-44 "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

Luke 2:5 "He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child."

Jesus Was a Person in the Womb

The Incarnation demonstrates God's total identification with us, from conception to death. Unique as He was, Jesus Christ was made like us in every way.

Luke 1:31 "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."

Hebrews 2:17 "For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people."

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Luke 1:41-44 "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy."

Luke 2:21 "On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived."

Closing Thoughts

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Jesus Christ expects His Church, His disciples, to walk as He walked. He was confronted by a plethora of desperate situations, yet not once did He solve the problem by eliminating the person, or by suggesting he or she should not have been born.

I believe, from Scripture, that while the unborn may be unseen, these children are loved by Him, fully alive and fully human. That is a "reasonable" conclusion.

I have confidence the Scriptures speak of the unborn life as human life.

There are those who would argue that abortion is not a sin, since it is not mentioned in Scripture. I believe, that is not reasonable.

There are many things not mentioned in Scripture. Their absence does not give us license. I would argue it raises the accountability of the follower to pursue God's heart as well as His truth.

We do not find Scripture speaking against shooting chemical substances in our arms or snorting them up our nose – yet we know it is reasonable that this would violate God's plans for our lives.

Likewise – there is nothing in Scripture that specifically states looking at pornography. In fact, there are those that would argue the human body, as created by God, is beautiful and these magazines are "art." It is not reasonable to accept this. In fact, we know pornography to be not only damaging to the one who views it (and those near to them), but it is also highly exploitive of those being photographed. Simply because Scripture does not name the specific sin does not lessen our responsibility to know it, and call it sin.

I do not know why God didn't mention abortion in the Bible. Part of me wishes He had. But a greater part of me accepts it as perfect that He did not mention it. If we would have needed it, it would be there.

I have been witness to hundreds of ultrasounds – some as young as 5 weeks – others close to birth. So often, the first comment is, "There's the baby!!" Why? Because it's reasonable. To call it anything other than that is unreasonable. To stop that beating heart is taking its life. How is that not killing, or even murder?

It is reasonable to assume the violent intrusion into a mother's womb to literally tear her child to pieces, slicing his limbs from his body, crushing and severing his head is a sin.

I have spoken to hundreds of women who regret their abortion decision. They all recognize their need to fall before the throne of grace to ask for forgiveness from their Heavenly Father. Forgiveness for what? For taking the life of their child. Nearly every woman instinctively knows this – which is precisely why it is such an agonizing decision for her to make. God has written His law on our hearts. This is her child...and she knows it. To her, it's obvious and it's reasonable.

I have confidence from not only the Word of God, but also simple reasoning, that abortion is one of the greatest (if not THE greatest) evils of our time. It exploits women and kills children.

For the above stated reasons – and other unstated – I strongly believe the unborn to be a human being, created in the image of God. Even though it is small and not breathing air on its own, it is a living child. To violently take its life is the same in God's eyes as killing you or I.

Lord, have mercy on our souls.
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