

Is Abortion Sinful?

Summary: *Life is precious and to be protected. Sometimes in protecting life, we must give up our own comforts and self-will, but we must remember that love demands that we lay ourselves down for the sake of others. Abortion is contrary to the demands of Scripture to protect life, care for those who have not the ability to protect themselves, and humble ourselves by considering others before ourselves.*

This is such a controversial subject within America today. We are not unaware of the fact that millions of families in this country alone have been affected by it. We know that some women are deeply protective of their “rights” in this matter, that some feel a great deal of shame from having chosen to abort, and that there are a plethora of churches who only bellow condemnation and shame at those who are touched by it.

In all things we as a church desire to express the truth of the Scriptures in such a way as is consistent with the command to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). Therefore, we are compelled to speak truth, not watering it down, but at the same time with gentleness and kindness.

In all things we look to the Scriptures to know God’s will. This must be our foundation and our final authority. He has spoken in such a way as to give us insight into the “fullness of joy” and “eternal pleasures” which are found in trusting His Son, Who died for our sin to save us from the condemnation which it justly deserves.

It is well accepted in our society that murder is wrong, whether from a legal, moral or biblical basis. The issue therefore of abortion ultimately boils down to whether or not the one being aborted is a living child. If so, he or she is to be protected by the same principles which guide our guarding of other human life.

The Bible is not silent on this issue, but rather consistently presents life as having been bestowed even within the womb. The following are a few of the relevant passages:

- *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.*

Psalms 139:13

- *You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews.*

Job 10:11

- *If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or my maidservant, when they brought a complaint against me, what then shall I do when God rises up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him? Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?*

Job 31:13-15

- *The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?” [this same word used for the unborn children in the womb is also used in Hebrew for newborns, infants and even older children – which certainly suggests that there is no distinction]*

Genesis 25:22

- *And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit... [same point as above – this same word in the Greek is used to refer to the unborn as well as infants and newborns (see Luke 2:12, 18:15)]*

Luke 1:41

In the end, all life originates from God and it is His right alone to take life away (Job 1:21).

So, if someone were to ask whether or not abortion is sinful, the answer from a biblical perspective is unequivocally “yes.”¹ Not only is it murder of the vulnerable and defenseless, the very ones whom we are constantly commanded to protect, but it is also an expression of self-will and self-determination which seeks one’s own desires and comforts over those of another. This is inherently non-Christian.

Even if a woman or man did have a “right” to choose (and they most certainly do not for the reasons above), the Christian calling is to surrender one’s own rights for the sake of others. We are called to, “Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4). That includes the babies that grow within the womb of mothers throughout this country. We must count them as being more significant than we are.

Sin is serious and cannot be swept under the rug. It is an affront and act of rebellion against our Creator. It is not a light thing and thus should be considered carefully.

¹ For the purposes of this paper, we are not dealing with in-vitro fertilization or other such medical attempts to get pregnant. Those involve much more gray area and much wise counsel and prayer is encouraged.

Once again, we want to be a people who speak the truth in love. Failing to do so is cruel and misleading. If you are a woman who has had an abortion, we want you to know that God is abounding in love and grace. He is a God Who forgives and cares and covers those who would, by His grace, run to Him. You have not committed an unforgiveable sin and are not outside of God's ability or desire to reconcile with His beloved. God is gracious, look to Him.

If you are a woman who is considering an abortion, we want you to know that our hearts go out to you.² It has always been challenging and costly to raise a child in this world. It is such a daunting mantel of responsibility especially today. We encourage you to consider the life of the child growing within you. Count him or her as more important than any alleged rights which the world would tell you to cling to. Trust the Lord with your own life and the life of the gift which He has given.

In the end, obedience is not only our inherent responsibility, but our greatest joy. The Lord is our greatest good and the most precious treasure. No one can authoritatively say that obedience will be easy and without difficulties, but the Scriptures constantly say that it is worth it by far. Trust them, trust Him.

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Recommended Resources

- <http://www.abort73.com/> - a site with tons of helpful resources, statistics, etc.
- <http://www.desiringgod.org> – search “abortion” in the subject box and you will find a number of helpful sermons/articles which are extremely informative and helpful.