The Sanctity of Life

The Bible makes clear that all life is sacred, or holy, to God; however, there are many instances where the value of the life of a child is held with higher esteem by God. Consider Jesus speaking in Matthew 19:14 "*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*" King David wrote in Psalm 139:16 "*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 also said in Psalm 22:10 "*From My mother's womb You have been My God*"

The Bible Says About Abortion

Human life is sacred to all beliefs. The great debate on abortion is at what point the "fruit of the womb" is identified as a human life. Science cannot answer this (although it suggests that we are human from conception). The Bible, the source of Christianity, says that humanity, which it defines as being created in the image of God, begins at conception.
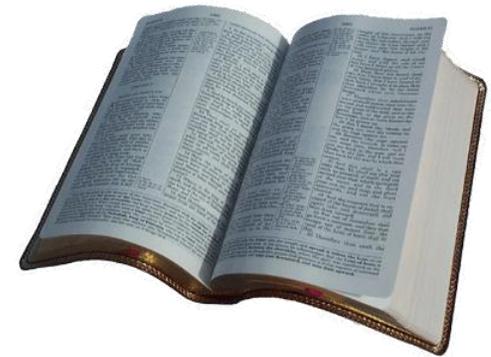
The Bible also says that shedding of life that is in the image of God is murder. Therefore, we can see that the Bible condemns abortion as the commission of one of the oldest crimes known to man.

"*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.*"
Psalm 127:3

"*I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live*"
Deuteronomy 30:19

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What Does The Bible Say About Abortion?

Abortion is one of the most controversial subjects in America today. Truly, at the very base of the debate lies one simple question: is a child unborn a child human? In scientific terms, from conception the unborn child is human, possessing human genetic traits that immediately identify it, by scientific examination, as a part of the human race. Still the question persists: is the creation of the womb entitled to the identity of a human being? The answer to such a question lies not in the realm of science, but in a philosophical and theological examination of what comprises the being human.

The View of Most Religions

You are probably not surprised to know that almost unanimously, world religions identify abortion as contrary to their spiritual values. Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Baha'i all see abortion as being in opposition to the value of human life and progress. The purpose of this pamphlet is to examine what the Bible, the fundamental source of Christianity, says about abortion.

The Bible's View of Life

In the Bible the human being's value is identified immediately, in the first chapter of the first book of the Bible. Genesis 1:27 "*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*" This "image" does not refer to man's natural image, which is similar to nature, but to his Soul, Spirit and Body (1 Thessalonians 5:23b *may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*). This "image" is not one that we mature into, nor is it something that we manifest at birth; it is indiscernible by any method except the Bible's description (Hebrews 4:12). Because the "Spirit" is identified with life (Genesis 7:22, John 6:63), one

can know that the moment human flesh is "alive", it possesses a soul and a spirit. Therefore, we can know that the creation of the womb is a human "life" from the moment of conception.

The Bible's View of Ending Life

One of the earliest commandments found in the Bible pertains to the sanctity of the human life. In Genesis 9:6, God commanded Noah: "*Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.*" Again, the power of this command is identified within the idea that human life is unique on earth; Mankind is "made in the image of God". When does this "making" occur? God told the prophet Jeremiah "*in the womb I formed you*" (Jeremiah 1:5). When Moses defined the various degrees of murder in the Law of Moses, he made it clear that an unborn child was to receive equal treatment in the eyes of the law as an adult in Exodus 21:23: "*But if any harm follows (*i.e. inflicted on an unborn child*) then you shall give life for life*".