

Morality: The Sin of Abortion
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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.

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.

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."

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 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*".

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.*"

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, described as "in the womb".

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 Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb

Isaiah 49:1 ".....The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name"

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;"

We do not find the word "abortion" in the Bible. Some believe that the word "*pharmakeia*", translated as sorcerer, is actually a reference to an abortionist. It is the case that abortions were chemically induced in the first century by men called *pharmakeia*, but to be fair, the term has a broader meaning from context when used in Scripture.

The word "abortion" is used almost immediately after the New Testament period by early Christians trying to make clear the limits of the command not to murder:

"You shall not murder a child by abortion." (Didache 100AD)

"You shall not kill either the fetus by abortion or the new born" (Letter of Barnabas, 125AD)

"We say that women who induce abortions are murderers, and will have to give account of it to God." (Athenagoras 150 AD)

"...we are not permitted, since murder has been prohibited to us once and for all, even to destroy ...the fetus in the womb (Tertullian 180AD)

The world fires back with a salvo to defend abortion. Effectively, the world argues that an unborn child is not a human being, but a fetus, and that abortion is no more immoral than removing your appendix. The world comes to this conclusion by estimating life quite differently than the Bible. Your age determines your humanity; your gender (China); the contribution you can make to society; the quality of life you will have; your ability to communicate, or your intelligence. Yet case by case, we see that these measures are flawed, particularly when used to discern a matter of life and death.

The world believes it came up with a moral validity for abortion when it argues "It is your body, your choice". Yet the world could not be farther from the mark. Selfishness may well be the root of ALL evil; and often, Hedonism (worship pleasure) is not far behind this. God said: *"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*. So it is not our body, our choice.

Abortion is Immorality. According to the Bible it is murder, a murder of the most innocent member of our society. While we find it deplorable, we need to remember that the reason behind abortion is that many people are deceived today. Abortion does not only commit murder, it commits violence on a woman, and robbery on her humanity.

Deuteronomy 30:19 *"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"*