

Abortion And The Sanctity of Human Life

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With the overturning of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision by the recent Dobbs v. Jackson decision of the United State Supreme court on June 24th, many pro-abortion advocates have predictably declared this ruling as illegitimate and wrong. The ruling basically states that abortion, defined as the willful termination of a human pregnancy, is not a federal constitutional matter and is to be returned to the legislatures of each state to decide. A number of states have already enacted various restrictions on abortion access, while others have little to no restrictions, even up to the moment of birth itself.

Without question, there is a lot of emotion on both sides of the issue of abortion. But emotions can cloud our better and wiser judgment. When issues about the nature of human life arise, it is best to consider the Creator of that life, the Lord God of heaven.

Why Is Human Life Special?

God is the Giver of all life (I Tim. 6:13; Acts 17:25). This should take on great significance and meaning for each of us. To the evolutionist and atheist, though, human life is no different or any more special than life found in a cow, flea, or amoeba. While all living things possess “*life*” (Gen. 1:30; 2:7), human life is very different from all other forms of life.

God has revealed that He made man in His “*image*” (Gen. 1:26-27). Man is a dual being with an immortal spirit and physical body (Eccl. 12:7; Jas. 2:26). Death is the end of existence of an animal, but this is not the case with man (Matt. 10:28).

God is the “*Father of spirits*” (Heb. 12:9), and we are His “*offspring*” (Acts 17:28-29). Human life has been uniquely created by God in His image, thus it should be viewed and treated with dignity and honor above all of God’s creation (Psa 8:5-8; Gen. 9:6).

Human Life is Sacred

Human life is sacred because it is created by God (Gen. 1:27; Col. 1:16), protected by God (Job 10:12), and valued by God (Matt. 10:29-31; John 10:10).

Human life is a sacred gift of God Who gives to all life, breath, and all things, and it is in Him that we live, move, and have our being (Acts 17:25,28). It is a deceptive lie that teaches that we are products of a godless, purposeless, and mindless evolutionary process guided by blind chance over vast amounts of time. The result of such foolish and evil doctrines is seen in the terrible and tragic devaluing of human life that is rampant in our world today.

It is also important to remember that human life is sacred even if aged, disabled,

or terminally ill. We should seek to preserve and protect human life by providing necessary care and assistance until the time of death. Jesus had compassion on a leper (Matt. 8:2-30), a paralytic (Lk. 5:17-26), a blind man (John 9:1-7), and taught a parable that emphasized loving and caring for our neighbors even when they are in dire circumstances Lk. 10:30-36). This is why it is so important to value and protect human life even as it begins in the womb.

President Ronald Reagan wrote, “We cannot diminish the value of one category of human life — the unborn — without diminishing the value of all human life” (**Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation**, p. 18). Consider this important statement from **Focus on the Family**: “We believe human beings are created by God in His image. Therefore every person, from conception to natural death, possesses inherent dignity and immeasurable worth — including preborn children, elderly individuals, those with special needs and others marginalized by society. Christians, then, are called to defend, protect, and value all human life” (www.focusonthefamily.com/about/foundational-values).

When Does Human Life Begin?

This question is a problem only for those who support the practice of abortion, and they will usually deny that it begins with conception to avoid the obvious conclusion that abortion is the immoral termination (killing) of innocent human life. The fact is human life must begin at conception because nothing is added after this point to suddenly make it human or any more human. The complete individual DNA information of a human being is present at conception. Only air and nourishment are added to aid the growth and development of this living human individual person. Calling it a lump of cells or using a non-person sounding term like “fetus” (a Latin term for offspring) does not change the fact that it is a living and developing human being due our respect, protection, and care.

As we shall see next, God describes the child in the womb as a living human person. Human life is the unity of body and spirit, for the body without the spirit is dead (Jas. 2:26). Therefore, the child’s body in the womb is alive because it has a spirit given from God from the moment of conception.

God’s Recognition of the Unborn As Fully Human

God views the life in the womb as a human person. Consider the following scriptures:

1. Genesis 25:11—Rebekah was pregnant with two “*children*” in her womb. Women bring forth children at birth (Gen. 3:16), because they are children in the womb before birth.

2. Exodus 21:22-23—A pregnant woman is a woman “*with child*,” and if two men fight and hurt a woman so that she gives birth prematurely, and lasting harm follows (death of child or mother) the penalty is life for life. This is the penalty for murder!

3. Job 31:15—Job says that God made him in the womb. This is very similar to what David said in the next passage.

4. Psalm 139:13-16—David writes that God formed his inward parts and covered him in his mother's womb. Why are so many today so quick to destroy what God forms in the womb?

5. Jeremiah 1:5—God tells Jeremiah that He knew him even before He formed him in the womb. Jeremiah was a real person in the mind of God and in the womb of his mother.

6. Luke 1:36-41—Elizabeth is said to have conceived a “son” (John the Baptist) and that “*the babe leaped in her womb.*” The Greek word “*brephos*” that is translated “babe” is used of an unborn child, and an infant (compare Lk. 1:41; 2:12,16). There is no difference between the status of a child before or after birth. They are both real persons and full human beings.

The Real Problem Behind Abortion

Apart from the issue of troubled pregnancies that threatens the life of the mother and child (and we should pray that doctors would give every effort to save both lives if possible), many abortions are the result of sexual immorality that result in unplanned and unwanted pregnancies. In 2019, unmarried women accounted for 86% of all abortions (abort73.com/abortion_facts), with rape and incest accounting for only about 1-2% of all abortions (and why should an innocent child be killed because of the evil of others? The rapist should be punished!).

The highest percentage of abortions are done because the mother is not ready for a child, can't afford it, or for other social or economic reasons. And often no reason is given—it is just an unplanned pregnancy. Many of these unplanned pregnancies are a result of having sex before and outside of the marriage relationship, and abortion is a convenient way to eliminate the consequences of this careless and sinful activity that conceived a baby. God instituted the family unity of a marriage between one man and one woman, a relationship wherein children can be conceived and brought into this world to be loved and raised. Teaching our children about marriage being the only place for sexual activity would help bring an end to the sinful shedding of the blood of innocent children (Prov. 6:17).

Concluding Thoughts

It has been reported that 80% of women who see an ultrasound image of their baby choose life (give.preborn/media-partners?sc=402533GF). Why would they want that baby they can see killed by abortive methods such as a pill, saline, suction, scalped, or the horrific partial-birth abortion? Those who argue that it's the woman's body and her choice conveniently ignore the fact that the child is **another** body and has the same right to life as the mother. Yet, sadly, many are “*without natural affection*” (Rom. 1:31). And those who argue that abortion is better than having disabled, unwanted children have put themselves in a position to decide life and death for another person. Many disabled people live very productive lives and

unwanted children are adopted every year by families that shower them with love.

As we have opportunity, let us pray for and help those expectant mothers who find themselves in difficult situations. Let us help them avoid choices that will bring harm and leave a legacy of terrible regret. Let us not be deceived by those in our world who insist on calling evil good and good evil (Isa. 5:20). Let us honor the sanctity of every human life and faithfully walk in the righteous ways of God.

Added Comment by the Editor: It has been observed that “every person in favor of abortion has already been born.”