

ABORTION – LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION:

1. Terms defined:
 - A. Abortion: Premature expulsion of a fetus so that it does not live, especially if induced on purpose (*Webster's New World Dictionary*).
 - B. Fetus: From a 14th-century Latin term meaning “young one” or “offspring” (*Webster*, 458).
 - i. Proper usage: Refers to the early development of a child until birth without stating the nature or quality of the organism (human or animal) under consideration (Randy Alcorn, “Life, Humanity and Person-hood,” *Pro Life Answers to Pro Choice Arguments*, 46-47)
 - ii. Propaganda usage: Dehumanize/depersonalize – no longer are babies under consideration, but *fetuses* or “POC’s” (products of conception)
2. Why study the topic?
 - A. On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruling in “Roe vs. Wade” legalized abortion.
 - i. This decision stated that by the Constitution unborn human beings are not legal persons and are the property of the owner (mother) and can be killed at her request, even up to the time of birth if her doctor agrees, although the courts can stop late stage abortion.
 - ii. In the first three months of pregnancy abortion is up to the whim or caprice of the mother.
 - B. The results of this ruling:
 - i. In all the wars of the U.S. there has been a total of 1,196,554 deaths among U.S. personnel, while from 1973 to 2014 there have been 60,942,033 abortion deaths (nrlc.org – from **Guttmacher Institute**, a pro-abortion research group).
 - ii. That equals 1.451 million/year, 3,975/day, 166/hour, 2.76/minute for 42 straight years!
 - iii. If projected figures for 2015-18 are correct, you can add another 3,625,232, bringing the total to 64,567,265
3. The two groups that support abortion defend it as follows:
 - A. The fetus is a cluster of cells that are part of the mother’s body, not a human being.
 - B. The child is human, but the rights of the mother override that of the unborn child. So, if the mother is refused an abortion, she falls victim of the rights of the unborn.
4. It is my hope to prove that abortion is biblically, morally, and socially wrong, being the killing/murdering of an innocent human being!

BODY:

I. Abortions: Who and why?

- A. Who has abortions:
 1. In 2015, unmarried women accounted for 86% of all abortions (CDC).
 2. Among married women, 4% of pregnancies currently end in abortion. (CDC)
 3. Among unmarried women, 27% of pregnancies end in abortion (CDC).
 4. Percentage of 2015 abortions (CDC): Less than 15 years **.03%**; 15–19 years **9.8%**; 20-24 years **31.1%**; 25-29 years **27.6%**; 30-34 years **17.7%**; 35-39 years **10%**; over 40 years **3.5%**
- B. Why abortions occur?
 1. In 2004 the **Guttmacher Institute** anonymously surveyed 1,209 women from 9 different abortion clinics across the country. 957 women provided their main reason for their abortion.
 - a. Results: **.5%** - Victim of rape; **3%** - Fetal health problems; **4%** - Physical health problems; **4%** - Would interfere with education or career; **7%** - Not mature enough to raise a child; **8%** - Don’t want to be a single mother; **19%** - Done having children; **23%** - Can’t afford a baby; **25%** - Not ready for a child; **6%** - Other
 2. Florida records a reason for every abortion in its borders. The 2015 results were as follows:
 - a. Abortions for incest, rape, pregnancy being a danger to woman’s life, health, or psychological health, or serious fetal abnormality were less than 2% **combined!**
 - b. Social and economic reasons 6.27%, **elective 92.33%!**
 3. Conclusion: We cannot be sidetracked by arguments over the health of mother, rape, etc.

II. A child in the womb’s humanity and development:

- A. A human being:

1. Defined:
 - a. Human – belonging to or having the qualities of man or mankind (*Webster's Dictionary*).
 - b. Being – a living thing, a living human body, life (*Random House College Dict.*; *The Merriam Webster Dict.*)
2. What does the Bible teach us about how every living creature was made and reproduces to fill the earth? How does this affect our view of the baby in the womb (Gen. 1:24-25, 26-28)?
 - a. All living things produce after their kind.
 - b. Thus, if two humans reproduce, what they produce must be a human being!
 - c. This human being, like its parent, is made in God's image!
3. Today's definition of *life* tells us a baby in the womb is a living human being:
 - a. Medical authorities determine a person to be *alive* if there is either a detectable heartbeat or brainwave activity.
 - b. Unborn children have detectable heartbeats at 18 days (2-1/2 weeks) after conception and detectable brainwave activity at 40 days (a little over 5-1/2 weeks) after conception.
 - c. Yet, 75% of all abortions occur after the *6th week* of pregnancy, indicating even by today's standards abortion is _____?
- B. The development of a child in the first 12 weeks tells us much about its humanity.
 1. 18-22 days – Heart begins beating/pumping blood, often of a different type than mother's
 2. 20 days – The foundation of the entire nervous system is established, while liver, kidneys, and intestines begin to take shape
 3. 4 weeks – Baby is 10,000 larger than it was as a fertilized egg
 4. 5 weeks – Nose, eyes, cheeks appear; fingers are faintly visible.
 5. 6 weeks – Skeleton is complete; stomach, kidneys, liver all begin to function; brainwave activity detectible; mouth and lips present; fingernails begin forming
 6. 8 weeks – Responds to external stimuli; all organs in place; bones replace cartilage
 7. 9-10 weeks – Teeth begin to form; baby can turn head, frown, and hiccup
 8. 10-11 weeks – Can breathe amniotic fluid, urinate, grasp objects
 9. 12 weeks – All body systems functioning; has fingerprints; all that mainly remains is growth.
 10. 5th and 6th month: growth of hair, finger and toe nails, can cry, make a fist, kick, punch, open eyes, look around, and grip strongly enough to support his/her weight.
- C. Discussion: If the above criteria does not determine that the child in the womb is a human being and worthy of the right of life, how might this affect all human life?
 1. This has the potential to dehumanize all people everywhere, seeing it ignores the characteristics and judges right to life based on physical circumstances (i.e., in womb).
 2. This could affect those needed medical care, prolonged life-saving equipment, etc.
 3. Who makes these decisions and what is the criteria? Who dies??

III. Consider some Bible passages that relate to this matter.

- A. What was God's stated penalty for murder and why (Gen. 9:5-6)?
 1. Those who shed man's blood will have their blood shed by man.
 2. Murder is wrong because man is made in God's image.
 3. So, when a man and woman reproduce, their offspring will have two definite characteristics.
 - 1) Human; 2) Made in God's image.
- B. How should godly people view children, including those in the womb (Psa. 127:3)?
 1. Children are a heritage, or gift, from God. They are a reward!
 2. Yet, in most pro-abortion rhetoric, the child in the womb is presented as an enemy of the mother—something the mother must defeat to have equality with men and live a meaningful and happy life!
- C. How does **Proverbs 6:16-17** affect the Christian's view of abortion?
 1. An unborn child is human, having all the genetic needed to determine that child's physical makeup, as well as possessing the physical traits of a human.

2. An unborn child cannot be any more innocent that it is. It has harmed no one, committed no sin, etc. So, abortion is an abomination to God who gives children as a blessing!
- D. Read and compare Luke 1:44 and 2:12. How does the fact that the word babe/baby in these verses is from the Greek word “brephos” affect our view of abortion?
1. Man makes a distinction between an unborn child (fetus, POC) and a child born into this world.
 2. Luke, who was a medical doctor and was guided by the Holy Spirit says otherwise.
 - a. The unborn child in Elizabeth’s womb was called a BABE (brephos – Luke 1:44).
 - b. The baby Jesus in a manger was called a BABE (brephos – Luke 2:12).
 3. The Bible does not make the distinction between a child in the womb or one born.
- E. James says, “...the body without the spirit is dead” (James 2:26).
1. How does this help us view the state of the child in the womb?
 - a. One cannot scientifically deny that an unborn child is alive in the womb, seeing its heart beats, brain works, etc.
 - b. Since a child is alive, it has a spirit, and vice-versa. Otherwise, abortion talk forces society to accept that one’s physical circumstances or physical development can allow that person to be classified as a non-person!
 2. What does this teach us about the act of abortion?
 - a. It is murder to abort/kill this child.
 - b. It is putting to death one who has a soul, and made in the image of God.