



THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

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9
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ABORTION: A SYMPTOM OF SELFISHNESS

Jim Stauffer

As we discuss a very distasteful practice in current society, it is important for us to observe how we often arrive at things that are sinful in the eyes of God and over time become acceptable to men. Political Correctness may have its birth in something kind and considerate. It may well have demanded we not use vulgar "street language" to describe honorable things. Terms of denigration based on race or ethnicity or even gender are not acceptable nor should they be. Political Correctness has served us well in such areas. It does serve well when based on truth. We should not disparage one another with insensitive remarks or actions. Where it goes astray is the same as many other things and that is when it becomes based on opinion, even the opinion of the majority.

On January 22, 1973 the United States Supreme Court rendered a 7-2 decision granting the right to a woman to abort the life of an unborn child based on the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Bear in mind this was not legislated law with the approval of both the Senate and House of Representatives, it was a judgment by the Court. Essentially law was established by the Court and not the legislative body designed to pass such law. This was the first step in desensitizing this nation to the brutal slaughter of millions of innocent babies since.

While Scripture does not directly by name address the concept of abortion, it does clearly state principles of life and death and the corresponding causes. God gives life and it is to be treated as a blessing and when man takes such a life willingly it is condemned without ambiguity. When Zechariah says, *The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. Thus declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, (Zech. 12:1)*, he makes it clear the spirit of life comes from God (see **Gen. 2:7**). Solomon says God is the one who makes the spirit to dwell in the unborn child (**Eccl. 11:5**). The Bible condemns even the accidental death of an unborn fetus. **Ex. 21:22** "If men struggle with each other and

strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. 23 "But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. Tertullian, an author and commentator on Scripture who lived in the 2nd and 3rd centuries in the Roman Province of Carthage said concerning this passage, *The embryo therefore becomes a human being in the womb from the moment that its form is completed. The law of Moses, indeed, punishes with due penalties the man who shall cause abortion, inasmuch as there exists already the rudiment of a human being, which has imputed to it even now the condition of life and death.*

When Mary visited Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist while Elizabeth was pregnant with John, it is said, the baby leaped in her womb at the sound of Mary's greeting. The exact same word for baby is used in **Luke 2** to describe Jesus as a baby who was already born. Both John the Baptizer and Jesus are referred to by the exact same word, baby (*brephos*), when John was yet unborn and Jesus had already been born. Whether life begins at conception is a point of discussion in our day and time and yet the Scripture has already answered the question for us. An unborn child is a living being designed for life and ultimately death at some time in the future. It is immoral for anyone to take that life when no wrong doing has occurred.

Jesus refers to small children as being innocent and appropriate for entrance into the kingdom of heaven (**Mat. 18&19**).

Consider contradictory scenarios posited here. A man can, out of anger, kick his pregnant wife in the midsection and cause the death of the unborn child. He will be charged with a crime and punished to the full extent of the law. Yet a man with an M.D. can take a surgical instrument and with a smile on his face kill the unborn child of a woman and be considered a model

citizen.

One more illustration. The Bald Eagle is a national treasure and if one were even to take possession of an eagle's egg, he has violated the law. Just taking possession, not destroying it. Ask yourself which life is of greater value, the unborn eagle or the unborn human?

Now, to the point of our discussion. What is the motivation for an abortion? Bear in mind we are talking about taking the life of one who has been given life by God. There are circumstances that men have used to justify it. A young woman who made a huge mistake in judgment and therefore should not have her life's plans upset by the inconvenient intrusion of needing to care for a child. Some speak of situations where rape was the cause of the pregnancy and again, the woman should not be faced with that responsibility. Then there are simply accidental pregnancies with married couples. They had not planned for the child and he is "in the way" of plans they did make for their lives. In which of these cases did the child do something wrong and therefore warrant the death penalty? Anything that happens to me good or bad is not a reason for me to harm another living soul.

To combat this, those in favor of this horrible conduct have tried to argue life does not begin at conception. Medical advances have eliminated that argument, so they revert to the current argument. That is, a woman should have control over her own body and therefore deserves to have the right of choice. As my dear departed friend, Grant Clothier told me several times, she had the right of choice and she made one she now regrets. There is then, no second choice that will please the God of heaven who gave life to that unborn child.

We must recognize it is the self-centered to say, I want my life to be just as I plan it. No deed is more selfish than to refuse to love and care for your child making all the parental sacrifices normal to that task. Don't forget, we will give an account. **(2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:31).**

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THIS MESS?

TIM JENNINGS

You can feel the earth quake with political unrest. Malicious words and outlandish lies are the dialect of our day. Societies are boiling over with anger and violence. Immorality is accepted and even celebrated. There is a constant fear of the latest virus or natural disaster that threatens to change the landscape. The constant news cycle, like a drug dealer, injects the latest form of distress into the ears of a society of anxiety addicts.

What can a disciple of Jesus do about this mess?

Should we be consumed with despair? Should we retreat to islands of isolation? Should we fume and fight? No. We should not be surprised. The Bible constantly compares the nations to a raging sea, foaming and cresting with turbulence. The turmoil of our day is not unique, but our response should be.

The Bible does not call us to take up arms and raise our fists, but our Commander orders us to drop to our knees and raise up holy hands in prayer.

Please don't be disheartened by the simplicity of this response. Prayer is no cop-out. It is not the passive reply of the timid. Prayer is the courageous act of heaven's soldiers (Eph. 6:18). It is "of first importance" (1 Tim. 2:1). It raises our heads out of the mire to see that God is still actively on the throne (Isa. 6; Rev. 5). Nothing is hopeless. The shouts of angry and wicked people will not have the last word. So yes, the world is a mess, but you can pray.

1 Timothy 2:1-8 provides us with a model of how to pray in a messed up world.

Prayer Reminds Us God Is In Control

First, our prayers must push beyond our national borders or political ideas and reach out for the spiritual good of all people. Paul writes, "*I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people;*" because God "*desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Tim. 2:1,4). Our prayers should be as big as God's desire to save.

This includes even praying for "*kings and all those in authority*" (1 Tim. 2:2). No matter how distant they are or how sinful they live, we can touch their lives through prayer.

The reason prayer is effective over such vast lands and powerful people is because God is in control! Paul begins his letter to Timothy praying to a God who is "*the eternal King,*" and he ends his letter praying to "*the King of kings, and Lord of lords*" (1 Tim. 1:17, 6:15-16). Prayer is our declaration that God reigns. "*The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will*" (Prov. 21:1).

Daniel was distressed over the condition and survival of God's people, so he turned to prayer. I'm sure the prayer of an old man seemed like nothing compared to the horse and chariot, spear and arrow. Except the God of heaven heard it, and that very day dispatched angels to turn the hearts of world leaders to save His people (Dan. 9-11; esp. 10:12-20). Daniel knew that God "*changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings*" (Dan. 2:21).

A fearful and complaining spirit characterizes those whose eyes are turned downward, but a hopeful courage is the possession of those who pray.

Pray To Live A Godly Life

The purpose our prayers is that we might live in peace, as Paul put it, *“pray...that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness”* (1 Tim. 2:2).

God created government for the peace and security of society. When it functions correctly disciples can fulfill their responsibilities without interference. That is why we pray for peace, not for our personal comfort or national pride, but that the cause of Christ might flourish (Acts 9:31). This is accomplished by living *“peaceful and quiet lives.”* This relates to our submissive and supportive attitude toward governing authorities (Rom. 13:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:13-14). Praying for leaders drains away thoughts of hatred and rebellion, and allows us to see them as objects of God’s concern.

In addition, peaceful conditions allow us to more effectively model *“godliness and holiness”* (see 1 Thess. 4:11-12). Each day we live in peace is a perfect day to model the gospel of peace in a world of sin and conflict (1 Pet. 2:11-12).

There are places all over this world where Christians cannot live out their faith openly and the gospel is not welcomed, but prayer can change that.

Pray So People Will Be Saved

Ultimately, prayer has an evangelistic goal — *“God desires all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim. 2:3). We pray for leaders, that we might live in peace, so we can be free to live and share the gospel with the world.

The greatest problems in this world will not be solved by an election, a referendum, a war, more education, or a financial handout. The needs of our world are fundamentally spiritual. People need to know the truth so they can see through the deception of sin. People need peace with God which comes through Jesus, the *“one Mediator between God and men,”* *“who gave himself as a ransom for all people”* (1 Tim. 2:6).

It is time for our prayers to grow beyond our personal desires and physical comforts. Our world is in a mess. It is time to pray.

Taken From The Roanridge Reader 7/3/16

The Ninth Commandment

Moses, the Lawgiver, wrote God’s words for the Ninth of Ten commandments as follows: *“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”* (Exodus 20:16, ASV) For three thousand five hundred years, both Jews and Christians have understood, correctly, that the express meaning of this commandment is that if we are to follow God then we must be people who speak truth because, as Paul wrote to Titus in Titus 1:2 long ago, *“which God, who cannot lie”*. The Proverb writer said,

“A false witness shall not be unpunished; and he that uttereth lies shall perish.” (Prov. 19:9) Paul said again in Ephesians 4:25, *“Wherefore, putting away falsehood, speak ye truth each one with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.”* Truth ought to be the one thing that people can depend on hearing from us.

Truthfulness is important in the spiritual realm, in order to be like God our Creator. However there is also a very practical side to consider. It was not so much so in the days of Israel, as that was very much an agrarian economy, but our economy is built on the proper use of credit. Almost everybody has and uses a credit card and we are able to buy cars and houses based in large part on our credit scores. What are those but a quantified measure of our truthfulness? What would happen to our economy if few people could be depended on to tell the truth and then follow up on it in genuinely meaningful ways? What would happen to our society? We already see some of the problems. The interest rate on credit cards had increased fivefold for good borrowers, and more for others. Everybody pays when falsehood is common.

Yes, there is a practical benefit to godliness!

Cleveland Redding

YOU ARE INVITED

Please join us for a Ladies’ Day Bible study

TOPIC:

Christian Parenting, Proverbs 6:20-23

SPEAKER:

Jane Peck, Overland Park, KS

DATE:

Saturday, October 15, 2016

TIME:

*10:00 am – 12:00 pm
(registration at 9:30 am)*

LOCATION:

Lenexa church of Christ

CONTACT:

Merry at (913) 568-5726

Eph. 2:19 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

1Pet. 2:9 But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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NEWS AND NOTES:

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN PRAYER:

J.R.DANIEL, JAN PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP. ESPECIALLY PRAY FOR RICK HARRIS WHOSE BROTHER PASSED AWAY LAST SUNDAY.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS: A STUDY IN PRAYER - RON PECK

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS: THE BOOK OF ROMANS-JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON - BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10