

The Culture of Death

Proverbs 14:34

I. Introduction

- A. In the time we will spend discussing this topic this morning 183 babies will be put to death inside their mothers' wombs (1.6 million over the course of a year).
- B. No issue more pointedly contrasts the views of the world against the views of God than the issues concerning the sanctity of life.
- C. We will make the Biblical case against the disregard for life this morning but we will also expose the dishonest and sinister nature of the advocates of these policies of death.
- D. I will be using the term pro-abortion to describe people who call themselves pro-choice and as we go along I will explain why.

II. The Abortion Agenda

- A. A professor in a world-acclaimed medical school once posed this medical situation -- and ethical problem -- to his students: "Here's the family history: The father has syphilis. The mother has TB. They already have had four children. The first is blind. The second had died. The third is deaf. The fourth has TB. Now the mother is pregnant again, The parents come to you for advice. They are willing to have an abortion, if you decide they should. What do you say?"
The students gave various individual opinions, and then the professor asked them to break into small groups for "consultation." All of the groups came back to report that they would recommend abortion.
"Congratulations," the professor said, "You just took the life of Beethoven!"
- B. The question of abortion as well as euthanasia comes down to people thinking that they have Godlike abilities to determine what is best in the long run.
- C. As far as the abortion debate goes these are the ideas that they try to get across.
 - 1. If a mother wants to get rid of a baby then that baby will not have a life worth living.
 - a) Here is where the emotional arguments really come into play.
 - b) They will present the worst scenarios imaginable and then try to pull on your heartstrings in sympathy to the young girl or even to the baby.
 - c) But if that's the case then what about these women who in their postpartum depression kill their babies.
 - d) If it is murder immediately after the birth then it is murder before it.
 - e) Not too many advocate for out and out murder of an already born child.
 - f) What of adoption?
 - 2. We've got to protect the health of the mother.
 - a) This is the biggest copout of all.
 - b) The fact of the matter is that abortion is generally considered to be a far more traumatic event than actual birth.
 - c) C. Everett Koop, M.D., formerly the Surgeon General, states that during his 35-plus years of practicing medicine, "Never once did a case come

across my practice where abortion was necessary to save a mother's life."

- d) In addition to the fact that many say this is never a solution to save the mother's life, the fact is that it is rarely the reason given for an abortion.
 - (1) 4% say their abortion is for the physical welfare of the mother.
 - (2) If you add the abortions for rape/incest and for the concern of the health of the baby then you are still only at 6%.
 - (3) That means if we cut out all of the abortions except the ones for so called health concerns we would stop 1.5 million abortions a year.
- 3. They will throw in that they want abortion to be "safe, legal, and rare."
 - a) Here is where we really begin to expose the lies in their agenda.
 - b) They certainly want abortion to be legal.
 - (1) Not that they have gone through the normal legal channels to accomplish this.
 - (2) Every time it is put to a vote the people are for at least SOME restrictions on abortion.
 - (3) Every time a law is passed the pro-abortion crowd takes it out of the hands of the voters and puts it in the hands of liberal judges.
 - c) They care somewhat less about making it safe.
 - (1) When Texas abortion clinics came under investigation for unhealthy practices the pro-abortion organizations took to calling the investigation anti-abortion.
 - (2) If they want abortions to be safe then they should welcome the investigation to ensure such safety.
 - (3) Additionally, there is ample evidence to show that virtually every abortion does both physical and emotional damage to the woman.
 - d) They flat out lie when they say they want it to be rare.
 - (1) First of all, if there are no moral quandaries about abortion then why must we keep it rare?
 - (2) When pro-life (anti-abortion) organizations show up near abortion clinic to pass out literature meant to educate girls about the baby inside of them they call this "guerrilla tactics."
 - (3) When a law was passed in Texas that mandated abortion clinics to OFFER a sonogram they said that this was an intimidation tactic.
 - (4) So giving factual information to a woman that might tend to call her decision into question is something to be feared?
 - (5) I thought we wanted to keep these things rare!
- 4. A fetus is not a life.
 - a) In order to get this across they refuse to call the baby a baby (Lk. 1:41).
 - b) What is ironic is that when a crime is committed against a pregnant woman and her baby is killed, the criminal can be charged with murder (Ex. 21:22-24).
 - c) They have really lost a lot of ground here (ironically) because of advances in technology.
 - d) The more we are able to see with our own eyes what that baby looks like inside the womb the more difficult it is to make this case.

- e) Films like *The Silent Scream* and others have shown quite clearly that the baby experiences pain in the process.
 - f) Medical authorities determine a person to be "alive" if there is either a detectable heartbeat or brain-wave activity. With that in mind, it is eye-opening for some to realize that unborn children have detectable heartbeats at eighteen days (two and one-half weeks) after conception and detectable brain-wave activity forty days (a little over five and one-half weeks) after conception. What is so shocking is that essentially 100 percent of all abortions occur after the seventh week of pregnancy.
 - g) If we say that that embryo/fetus/zygot is not a person then what is it?
 - h) When life is conceived a cell is born that begins a process that will continue until the day it dies.
 - i) You are a continuation of the process that began at conception.
 - j) If that is a human life, then even the most extreme arguments (rape/incest) do not give us moral authority to take that life.
- D. What the pro-abortion crowd REALLY doesn't want you to know.
1. Planned Parenthood (the number one supplier of abortions in America) was started by a racist eugenicist.
 2. When investigations were made into Planned Parenthood facilities it was found that they...
 - a) Gleefully accepted donations offered by a man claiming that he wanted to be sure his money went to abort black babies because there were too many black babies being born.
 - b) Told a girl claiming to be 13, not to write her age down or more importantly the age of her "boyfriend" so that they agency wouldn't have to report a statutory rape.
 - c) Gave advice to a man claiming to be a sex trafficker on how he could get frequent checkups and abortions for his "girls" who were underage.
 3. They are not simply advocates for abortion in extreme cases but push for it for any reason whatsoever.
 - a) They continually hang their hat on the health of the mother question and yet when that provision is included they still push (successfully) to strike down the laws addressing abortion.
 - b) They even vote for the most distasteful of all abortion practices known as partial birth abortion in which case it is physically impossible that this procedure could be helpful to the mothers health.
 - c) Our President (while a senator) even voted against a measure that would protect a child after the abortion failed and the child was born alive.

III. The Euthenasia Agenda

- A. They are called "mercy killings" and they are said to allow people to make their own choices about their own lives, they call it "dying with dignity."
- B. The points they will try to get across are:
 1. People shouldn't be "forced" to suffer when they can find relief.
 2. There is no harm to anyone else when someone chooses to end their own life.
- C. We first turn to the Bible to address these matters.

1. The foremost thing we must keep in mind is that we are not the creators of and therefore not the arbiters of life (Gen. 1:26-27).
 2. God has given rules throughout history as to when life ought to be taken (Gen. 9:6; Rom. 13:4).
 3. When we decide to take life without a directive from God we are taking a decision into our hands that is not ours to make.
- D. But let's go back to the reasoning of the supporters of this idea:
1. There are some 31,000 assisted suicides each year in the US and only 2 to 3 percent are the terminally ill.
 2. So we have a large majority of assisted suicides who should need no assistance.
 3. What this means is that people who could take their own life are unwilling to make that decision but are assured of the "wisdom" by someone who is a "professional."
 4. They say that they will put safeguards in place.
 - a) Oregon's law states that they must make the request 3 times.
 - b) And that two doctors must verify that the patient only has 6 months to live.
 - c) But this is guesswork at best and biased at worst.
 5. In the Netherlands (where euthanasia is legal) doctors account for about 7 to 9 percent of the deaths each year.
 - a) About half of those are without consent.
 - b) Those are the deaths that are officially reported.
 - c) If you bring those numbers to the US you would be looking at about 70,000 to 90,000 UNCONSENTED deaths.
 6. Imagine a person who is stricken with horrible disease says that they just want to end it all.
 - a) Many times they are just crying out for reassurance.
 - b) They certainly are in a distressed state of mind.
 - c) Once the doctor tells them that it might be for the best, are they going to have the will to even consider living.

IV. The Consequences

- A. The most pointed consequence here is that we have become in this area a people who have NO regard for the things of God.
- B. The consequences are incalculable when it comes to the loss of life.
- C. In addition, we are moving the moral landmarks to as to inch closer to the ugliest atrocities of human history.
- D. If we are killing for convenience (and we are) then who else may be killed for this reason.
- E. Who is to make the choices about who should be killed for the convenience of everyone else.
- F. It becomes more and more clear that man considers himself to have the wisdom of God and to be capable of making decisions as if he knows more than he does.
- G. These people who take life so lightly, also take it lightly when life is taken by violent criminals.

V. Conclusion

- A. Don't let this become simply an emotional argument.
- B. But also don't even surrender the emotional aspects of this argument.
- C. Don't be complacent about this issue.