

The Christian View of Abortion

What does the Bible say about abortion?

1. God is the Creator of life, and human life is made in His own image.

Gen 1:27: “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

Men and women do not create children; God does. Every child, no matter what the circumstances of his or her conception, is lovingly created by God. He or she is given the gift of life, with the ability to know and love God and other people.

2. The Bible clearly condemns the killing of an innocent person. If the developing baby is a human person, then that prohibition should clearly apply.

Exodus 20:13: “Thou shalt not kill.”

3. A child is recognized as a person before birth. The bible uses the same word to refer to a baby or young child either before or after birth. (1) God knows us before birth – because it is a person who is in the womb. It is only recently that the concept of “personhood” has been separated from the biological life of a person, a subjective idea, apparently to justify the act of abortion. (2)

Jeremiah 1:5. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.”

Psalm 139: 13 – 16: “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ...

And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me,

When as yet there was not one of them.

David recognizes his sinful nature even before birth (1):

Psalm 51:5: “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”

Jesus is recognized in the womb shortly after conception:

Luke: 1:43 — Elizabeth said to Mary: “And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?” - Jesus had only just been conceived, but already Mary was the mother of the long-awaited Messiah.

The Israelites reading the Scriptures well understood that God condemned killing by any means, whether by sword, poison, or abortion. After more contact with Gentile cultures, other writings gave more explicit instructions concerning abortion, describing it as parallel to infanticide. (2)

Letter of Barnabas 19 (74 AD) “Thou shalt not slay the child by procuring abortion; nor again, shalt thou destroy a child after it is born.” (2)

Didache 2:1 (150 AD) “You shall not procure abortion, nor destroy a newborn child.” (2)

1. Alcorn, Randy, Abortion in the Bible and Church History, <http://www.epm.org/resources/2010/Feb/26/abortion-bible-and-church-history/> accessed 7/29/2010.

2. “The Christian View of Abortion” brochure from Heritage House '76, Inc., Snowflake, AZ, www.hh76.com