



The Good News

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What about abortion?

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This is a question that has been presented to Christians for a very long time, especially since abortions are now legal. The question is, what does the Bible say about abortion?

There is no specific mention of abortion in the Bible, perhaps because there were few ways to safely and successfully have an abortion during the OT and NT times. However, the fact that the Bible does not mention it should not lead us to conclude that it is a godly practice. When you consider all the characteristics that are to be in a Christian, do any of them suggest that a Christian should want or need an abortion?

One of the basic arguments for abortion is that "It's my body and I have a right to do whatever I want". In **1 Cor. 6:19-20** Paul says "*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*" Even though most who have abortions are not Christians, the application should still be made that nowhere in the Bible does it ever suggest that we can do what we want with our bodies because they belong to us. Christ still sacrificed Himself for everyone, whether they become Christians or not...therefore the application that "we are not our own" should be a universal truth, even if non-Christians have yet to submit to that principle.

The excuses or reasons for abortion that people use are not those that a godly person should ever consider. Such excuses include 1) "I need an abortion because I am single, and I can't pay for a baby" - Jesus says in **Matt. 6:33** to seek first the kingdom of God and not to worry about food and clothing because those things God would provide. 2) "A baby just isn't convenient for me right now" - We are told in **Col. 3:17** that whatever we do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord...does this include killing a baby for the sake of convenience? 3) "It's not really a baby, it's just a fetus and so it's not killing" - According to the Bible, there is no difference between fetus and baby. Consider the following passages: In **Gen. 25:21-26**, we learn that the "children" struggled within Rebekah - can a fetus struggle? In **Job 3:11**, Job

says "*Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came forth from the womb?*" To "die" and "perish" one must be alive...Job obviously felt that he was alive inside his mother's womb. In **Jeremiah 1:5**, God says "*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.*" How can a fetus be known, sanctified, or ordained a prophet? In **Matt. 1:18** we learn that Mary was found "with child", not "with fetus" or anything else. In **Luke 1:15** we learn that John the Baptist was to be filled with the Holy Spirit while in the womb; a mass of tissue could not be filled with the Holy Spirit. In **Ex. 21:22-23** we learn that there were severe consequences according to the Old Law if men were to fight and a pregnant woman was hurt. If the unborn child was killed because of the fighting, "*then you shall give life for life*". Can you imagine the death penalty being given for abortions today? It was for accidental abortions in the Old Law.

Perhaps the strongest evidence is found in the account **Luke 1:41-44**, where we learn that Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist at the time, heard the voice of Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, and the babe (John the baptist) "*leapt within her*". A mass of tissue, as "fetus" is being defined, cannot "leap". The term there for babe or baby is "brephos". If we jump to **Luke 2:16**, where Jesus has been born, we learn that the shepherds found the "babe" or "baby" lying in a manger...this term is the same term "brephos" as before, meaning there was no difference between the unborn and born baby.

The argument could be made that the Greeks did not know any better and so they referred to the unborn baby and the born baby as the same thing ("brephos"), but what we must remember is that "*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God*" (all Scripture is literally "God breathed" - II Tim. 3:16). God does not recognize a difference between the unborn baby and the born baby as He uses the same word to describe both - therefore we must conclude that the practice of abortion is sinful...and many will lose their souls because of it.