

The Church's Response to Abortion

I. Abortion is the sin of murder¹

- An unborn child is an infinitely valuable human being in the image of God. Unborn children are NOT “blobs of tissue.”
 - God knits us together in the womb: Job 31:15; Ps 139:13–16; Isa 44:2, 24.
 - The unborn are treated as human in scripture: they can move, even leap (Gen 25:22; Luke 1:41, 44), be consecrated to God's service (Jer 1:5; Gal 1:15), filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15), and blessed (Luke 1:42).
 - The same word (βρέφος) is used to describe the unborn John the Baptist (Luke 1:41), the newborn baby Jesus (Luke 2:12), and the very young children brought to Jesus (Luke 18:15).
 - It is possible to die in the womb (Job 10:18; Jer 20:14–18): therefore the unborn are alive.
 - Some scientists concede this truth: “The normally pro-abortion New Scientist in March 2006 reported, ‘The task force finds that [recent advances in DNA] indisputably prove that the unborn child is a whole human being from the moment of fertilization, that all abortions terminate the life of a living human being, and that the unborn child is a separate human patient under the care of modern medicine.’”²
- The killing of the unborn is a religious act (even if done in a medical clinic). It is a form of child sacrifice.
 - A deeper idol is always behind abortion: I want to live a carefree life; I want a certain career; I want to be in control; I am afraid.
 - Scripture condemns child sacrifice (Deut 12:31; 18:10; etc.).
- Some people claim special circumstances:
 1. Poverty of the family, prospects of hardship.
 - Response: Would we put to death poor people?
 2. The child will be born with a terrible disability.
 - Response: All are image bearers and of incomparable worth.
 3. The child was begotten by rape or incest.
 - Response: The child may not be desired but he/she is still an image bearer.
 4. The mother's life is threatened.
 - Response: we should seek to do what we can to preserve life. We should hesitate and get multiple opinions when doctors say there is only one possible outcome (i.e., the death of mother and child).
- When women say “hands off my body,” or “my body, my choice,” when they claim autonomy to kill a baby in their womb, they are taking to themselves a prerogative they do not have. *God alone* has authority to give and take away life. They do not have sovereignty over the life of their *own* body, to take it if they wished; they certainly do not have autonomy over the life of another image bearer, even one in their womb.
- Human freedom is never absolute. We do not have the freedom to murder, or to steal, or to destroy the earth.

¹ A key source for this class was: Peter Barnes, *Abortion: Open Your Mouth for the Dumb* (Banner of Truth: 2010).

² *Ibid.*, 35.

- If abortion is murder, then we are in the midst of a worldwide holocaust.

II. Responding to abortion

- God is pro-life, a rescuer of rejected children: Ezek 16:4–6.
 - He urges us to care for and protect those who are helpless: Deut 24:19–21; Ps 10:14.
1. Oppose abortion in every sphere.
 - Pray for God to change not just the law, but the underlying spiritual issues at stake.
 - Fight abortion in the political sphere. Vote against issue 1 on Nov 7.
 - Do not take medication that causes abortions. Deliberately causing a fertilized egg to miscarry is a form of abortion.
 - Christians should not use artificial fertilization techniques that generate extra fertilized embryos that then go to waste.
 2. Help those who have unwanted pregnancies.
 - Volunteer at and support the women's centers near us: Hope Rising, Elizabeth's New Life Center.
 - Consider fostering and adoption!
 3. Speak words of grace and hope to those who had abortions or who encouraged others to have them, and are filled with regret and guilt.
 - The grace of Jesus Christ is bigger than this sin!
 - 2 Chr 33:6: Manasseh was a baby-killer who offered his sons to Molech. But God forgave him when Manasseh repented and turned back to him!