

Facing Abortion

“The preeminent human rights problem of our time”

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What does abortion have to do with discipleship?

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A church's mission is to make disciples:

- We must go into all the world,
- Explain who King Jesus is,
- Baptize those who trust him, and
- Teach them to obey his commands, including “do not murder.”

That's how “abortion relates to the disciple-making responsibilities of the local church.”

2

How often are disciples
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- Matthew 5:22-23 (page 690)
- Matthew 5:19-20
- Romans 13:8-10 (page 812)
- James 2:10-11 (page 870)
- 1 John 3:11-12 (page 878)

Loving others means, most basically, not taking their lives.

In 2014, 111,000 evangelical women obtained abortions.

3

Is abortion really murder?

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- Biblically, babies in the womb are people.
- Biologically, “a zygote is the beginning of a new human life.”
- Philosophically, “differences in size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency” do not make an embryo less human.

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➤ SIZE

“Are large people more valuable than small ones?”

➤ LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT

Is a pre-puberty human less valuable than a post-puberty human?

➤ ENVIRONMENT

Does your value change based on where you live?

➤ DEGREE OF DEPENDENCY

Are you less valuable if you're dependent on insulin?

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How do I answer?

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1. **It's just a clump of cells.**

Are you just "a clump of cells" or are you more?

2. **It's my body—my choice.**

If it's your body, why isn't it your DNA or blood type?

3. **You can't speak. You're not a woman.**

How many women say what I'm saying?

Can't even a bad person say true things?

4. **You can't speak. You've never adopted.**

"How does me not adopting justify others' abortions?"

Are you aware of how many Christians adopt?

4

How do I answer?

5. **What if the mother's health is at risk?**
Shouldn't doctors seek to preserve life if possible?
6. **What if the pregnancy is because of rape?**
Would ending this innocent child's life be right?
Is abortion your only option?
7. **Don't force your view on me.**
Wait . . . can you say that again?
Don't we both agree that some laws should be imposed on everyone?

4

How do I answer?

8. **You don't support science.**

Why didn't scientific advance justify the experiments that the Nazis performed on the Jews?

9. **You'll force women to get unsafe care.**

*How safe were abortion procedures before 1973?
Shouldn't murder be outlawed, even if outlawing it won't stop every murder?*

10. **You don't care about women's rights.**

How is my support of a the human rights of a baby considered anti-women, especially when about one of every two babies is a woman?

“Most women seeking abortions
aren’t uber-political.
They aren’t members of
the aggressively pro-abortion,
Twitter-argument-waging,
shout-your-abortion crowd.
They aren’t calculating murderers.
They’re afraid....”

— Maria Baer

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What should disciples do?

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What should disciples do?

- We must oppose abortion in law, while opening our lives (and homes) to those who may be at risk.
- We must nurture our children to follow Jesus's sexual ethic (that sex is lawful only within marriage), while seeking to restore and support them when they don't.
- We must teach that abortion is wrong, while offering the grace of the gospel to those who've done it.

“Because the baby Jesus was born,
there is hope for every woman who has
ended the life of her unborn child,
hope for every man who pressured a woman
to do so, hope for every medical worker
engaged in the grand satanic enterprise of
putting the babies to death.

The blood of Jesus makes forgiveness
possible for those who have shed blood.”

— Jim Hamilton

“There is no one more pro-choice than Satan when a woman walks into an abortion clinic; and there is no one more pro-life than Satan after a woman walks out of an abortion clinic.”

— Russell Moore