

## **Sanctity of Life Sunday 2022**

### **What's So Bad About Abortion?**

The Supreme Court finding on Roe vs. Wade has allowed legal abortion since 1973. But that decision could be coming to the end of its life. The SCOTUS recently heard arguments regarding a Mississippi law that would prohibit abortion after 15 weeks of gestation (Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health). The Court could use this opportunity to overturn Roe altogether; many court-watchers believe that there may be support for that. We will likely find out in June whether the Court will overturn Roe, further modify it, or let it stand as is. Of course, we all ought to be praying that the court will reverse its position and overturn one of the most horrible and unconstitutional decisions it ever made.

If the court decides to overturn Roe, abortion will not become illegal, unfortunately. If the court overturns Roe, regulations will depend on the laws of each state. Some states, like CA, IL, and NY, will have very free and open laws governing abortion. Here in WI, Gov. Evers, Attorney General Josh Kaul, and others are advocating for Senate Bill 72, which would repeal a 172-year-old abortion ban. If that law stands, abortion will effectively be prohibited in WI—a very good thing. Since the US Constitution says nothing about abortion, it really should not be a federal issue. It should be under state control.

Abortion, unlike many other legal controversies, is clearly a moral issue. Abortion causes the intentional death of a human being. That is obviously an act with moral consequences.

Not many years ago, those advocating abortion said that abortions should be safe, legal, and rare. They admitted that abortion was a tragic decision to make, a necessary evil; but it had to be available to provide an escape from a difficult situation. Not many make that argument anymore. Today, advocates of abortion encourage people to feel good about what they've done. They want to promote abortion as a good choice—good for the woman and even good for the aborted baby. I recently read an article where the author promoted the idea that abortion training for doctors should be more widespread. Many people think that abortion should be more common, more frequent, and better accepted by society.

The prophet Isaiah described this kind of thinking when he said,

*Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

Abortion advocates are precisely wrong in saying that abortion is good in any sense. Abortion is evil in nearly every case. Christians must stand strongly against the practice of abortion and work diligently to abolish abortion.

What's so bad about abortion? Why should we stand so strongly against it? Why do we want the SCOTUS to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*? If you were having a discussion with friends or family, and you were making the case for the pro-life point of view, how would you prove your case that abortion is evil, wrong, bad, and unacceptable? Here are a few things to keep in mind.

I. Abortion is murder.

- A. Murder is wrong; it's sinful and evil intentionally to take the life of an innocent person for no good reason.

The Bible tells us very clearly, "Thou shalt not kill," i.e., murder.

In fact, committing murder is a capital crime in the Bible. If you take the life of an innocent person without valid justification, you forfeit your own life. It is just and right to take the life of a murderer. Governments should be doing that—they should execute convicted murderers, including those who perform abortions.

- B. The claim that abortion is murder assumes a couple of things:

1. It assumes that the pre-born baby is a human being.

- a) Unfortunately, many abortion advocates will *not* admit that the pre-born baby is even human. They call the baby a leech or an alien. The baby is an unwanted invader, a foreigner, a parasite, no more than a cluster of undesirable cells. That's how women describe their own babies.

b) Why do we say that the pre-born baby is a human? The Bible teaches that, and common sense teaches that.

(i) Read Ps 139:13-16

*Jer 1:5 **Before** I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and **before** thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, [and] I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*

God recognizes a person's existence and humanity even before he is born.

(ii) Life is the result of the special creative act of God.

*Psalm 139:13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

(iii) Human life has inherent value because every human reflects the image of God.

*Genesis 1:26–27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

*Gen 9:6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*

(iv) Human life comes from God and is sustained by God.

*Psalm 100:3 It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves*

*Acts 17:25 God gives to all life, breath, and all things.*

So the Bible is very clear about the origin and value of human life. Christian theology asserts that the pre-born baby is a valuable human life.

- c) And even common sense tells us that the baby in the womb is an individual human being.
  - (i) What is that little thing growing inside the mother? Is it some other species of being? No, it's a human; what else would it be? You simply cannot deny the humanity of that little creature growing within its mother's body.
  - (ii) The baby is a separate person, not a part of the mother's body. The baby has its own DNA, blood supply, and other physical systems. The baby is dependent on its mother, but the baby is not part of the mother. The baby is a separate individual.

Those arguments claiming that a woman has the right to control her own body seem to ignore the fact that the baby is not part of the mother's body.

- C. The claim that abortion is murder also assumes that it's wrong to murder a human being. Taking the life of an innocent human being without moral justification is murder.
  - 1. In some cases, it is both moral and lawful to terminate a human life. E.g., convicted murderers deserve to die. Capital punishment is biblical (Gen 9:6).
  - 2. But in the case of a pre-born baby, there are only very rare cases in which it would be morally justifiable to take that child's life.
  - 3. When a doctor or anyone else intentionally terminates the life of an innocent human being, without moral justification, we call that murder.
  - 4. Abortion, in the vast majority of cases, is not morally justifiable. In the vast majority of cases, abortion amounts to murder.

- D. Modern abortion supporters often admit that the baby in the womb is human, and they also admit that killing it is taking a human life. However, they believe that the mother has the right to do that, at least up until the point of viability. They believe that the rights of the mother outweigh the rights of the baby. In fact, the baby does not have any rights; it's not a person in the legal sense of that term. If the mother doesn't want it, she has the right to kill it.
- E. The Bible teaches that all humans are valuable because they are all made in the image of God. Taking the life of an innocent person—pre-birth or post-birth—without valid justification, is murder.

**Trans:** Abortion terminates God's work of forming a unique, valuable human being. Abortion is murder, plain and simple. The abortionist is a murderer, and those seeking abortion are complicit in the murder. Those supporting and defending abortion are complicit in murder, IMO.

II. Abortion is unnecessary.

- A. In rare cases, it may be necessary to take the life of a pre-born baby, especially if that baby is not going to survive. E.g., in the case of an ectopic pregnancy, there is no chance that the baby will survive. In some cases, it *is* morally justifiable to take the baby's life in order to save the mother. That's very rare, but it could happen.
- B. In the vast majority of cases, women get abortions for convenience sake. They don't want the baby for one reason or another. E.g., they are not ready to be parents, they don't have the money to care for a child, they don't want to be responsible for a child, they don't like the sex of the child, or they think the child may be born with physical defects. A baby can be aborted today for virtually any reason or no reason.
- C. Further, abortion is unnecessary because a home is available for virtually every one of those babies. A large number of couples are eagerly pursuing adoption. They are seeking babies to adopt; there are not enough babies to go around. I recently heard that there are about 30 couples waiting for every baby available for adoption—60 people waiting in line to adopt every available baby that is up for adoption.

I believe that there would be a home for every baby if the mother would have the baby instead of aborting it.

D. There are agencies around the country that will help a struggling mother keep her baby to term and give it up for adoption.

E. Adoption is a very much better option than is abortion.

**Trans:** So in the vast majority of cases—well over 90% of the cases—abortion is purely for convenience. Those who pursue abortion have no valid moral justification for killing their children.

III. Abortion is an attempt to escape the consequences of sinful behavior.

A. Some *married* women abort their babies because they don't want to have any more kids. I'm not sure how a mother could kill her own child, but I'm sure that many do.

B. But in the vast majority of cases, those seeking abortions are unmarried. Why do they want an abortion? Because they have participated in sinful behavior. Abortion is an attempt to escape the natural consequences of sin.

C. In the case of abortion, taking an innocent human life is a far worse sin than the sin involved in creating that child. Abortion compounds the sin, makes the sin worse, and increases God's judgment against sin.

D. The Bible tells us what to do when we sin—we must confess our sins, admit them to God, ask forgiveness for them, and repent of them. If we are willing to humbly repent of sin, God is exceedingly merciful and gracious to us. 1 John 1:9

E. The worst thing to do would be to compound the sin by committing murder. Fornication is certainly a serious sin, but murder is far worse.

F. If you don't repent of sin and seek God's forgiveness, you will be held accountable for every sin you've ever committed, including fornication and murder. Those who commit such sins will justly suffer divine judgment—an eternity of punishment in hell. That's what is in store for those who refuse to confess and repent of sin.

**Trans.:** Our culture is very good at promoting sinful behavior and telling the lie that you can escape the consequences of sin. Abortion might seem to be a way of escaping from the natural results of sin, but it's not a solution; it's further and more serious sin. Cf. Gal 6:7-8.

- IV. Abortion is an assault on the weakest and most vulnerable human beings.
- A. God cares about the weakest and most vulnerable among us, the sojourner, the widow, and the orphan. The OT especially contains many passages instructing the authorities to care for such people.
- Exodus 22:21-24 *You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. ...*
- Psalm 82:3-4 *Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*
- B. Likewise, the Bible condemns those who shed innocent blood.
- De 19:10 *That innocent blood be not shed in thy land, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance, and [so] blood be upon thee.*
- Ps 106:38 *[They] shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.*
- In a certain sense, our land is polluted with the blood of the innocents. I'm not surprised that God would pour out his wrath on our nation for that.
- Trans:** The authorities in our culture ought to care for, protect, and preserve the lives of the weak and vulnerable. Instead, our culture promotes death.
- v. Abortion profits from death.
- A. The Bible affirms that the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim 6:10f). Abortion is a practice that would probably be quite rare except for the fact that thousands of people make huge amounts of money from it. People will do almost anything for money, including killing human beings.

- B. Abortion is a hugely profitable industry in the US and around the world. A wide range of people, including many politicians, make lots of money from killing babies and from things associated with killing babies.
- C. Planned Parenthood is perhaps the best known abortion provider in the country. The US government gives PP about \$.5 billion each year to provide services to pregnant women. PP and similar businesses provide a very good living for those employed by killing babies.
- D. Not only that, abortionists can make a lot of money selling baby parts. Researchers are always looking for human body parts on which to experiment, and researchers are willing to pay a lot for baby body parts. **E.g.**, David Daleiden's work exposing the industry; he got in trouble and is facing huge legal fees and time in prison.

**Trans:** When there is money to be made, someone will be there to make it, even if it's blood money. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and abortion is one of those evils.

VI. Abortion terminates potential.

- A. Every child born is full of potential. No one knows what that baby will grow up to be and what he/she might do.
- B. Abortion has taken the lives of over 60M pre-born babies since 1973. That number is probably quite conservative. The real number of abortions is no doubt much higher than that.
- C. What might have become of those babies? Only God knows what potential was terminated when those babies were put to death. If all of those babies had grown up and lived natural lives, imagine what they might have accomplished. Some of them could have changed the world. Maybe another Isaac Newton was among those babies. Maybe another JS Bach or Leonardo da Vinci or Jonas Salk. Maybe one of those babies would have discovered the solution to one of humanity's many problems. But abortion terminated all that potential.



- D. One of the arguments in favor of abortion is that it would be better to take the life of a pre-born child than it would be to allow that child to be born into a family that either doesn't want it or that has all sorts of other problems to contend with. But consider this example:

**Illus.:** Imagine a family where the husband has syphilis and the wife has tuberculosis. They have had four children; one has already died and the other three have terminal diseases. The wife is pregnant again. Wouldn't it make sense to abort the child? Many people today would argue that abortion would be the proper and reasonable in this case. This is exactly the situation into which Ludwig von Beethoven was born. Had that family been living today, and had they given in to the pressure to abort children in difficult situations, Beethoven, one of the greatest musicians ever, would never have seen the light of day.

I wonder how many people like B have been aborted. Of those 60+ millions of aborted babies, how many would have been geniuses? How many cures and solutions could these people have provided? How many had the potential to change the world for good? Virtually every single one of those babies had huge potential for good, but we will never know what they might have done. Their lives were taken unjustly, and the world will never benefit from their potential. What a great tragedy.

For these reasons and others, abortion is a heinous sin. It's not just murder; it's the murder of the most defenseless, vulnerable, and weak among us. Abortion is the shedding of innocent blood. The ones society ought to be protecting are the ones abortionists want to terminate.

In spite of the seriousness of this sin, God is able to forgive it. Murder does not send anyone to hell. As bad as the shedding of innocent blood is, it's not the unforgivable sin. The unforgivable sin is rejecting God's gracious offer of forgiveness through Christ. If you accept Jesus and trust in him, he is able to forgive any sin, even the most heinous of them. "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin" (1 John).

Christians must stand strongly against the practice of abortion. We must support those agencies and institutions that work to end abortion and overturn laws that allow abortion. We have good, biblical reasons to fight against abortion, and we must be involved in this great battle.

Perhaps Roe vs. Wade will be overturned; I hope and pray that it will be. But if that happens, it just moves the fight to the states. Many states have very liberal laws regulating abortion. Instead of fighting abortion on the federal level, we'd have to fight it in the state government. But fight we must. And I trust that all of us are in some way engaged in the fight against this evil and immoral practice.

*Psalm 82:3-4 Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*