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The Coop Report...

Abortion...what does God say about it?

There has been a lot of news recently about some states legalizing full-term "abortions." Like the Israelite nation of antiquity our nation has revived the pagan rituals of child sacrifice. A place in the south side of ancient Jerusalem within the expanse of the Valley of Hinnom, the Israelites sacrificed their children *by fire*.

> *"'The people of Judah have done evil in my sight,' saith the Lord … 'They built the high place* of Tophet, which is in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in fire. Such a thing I never commanded, nor had in mind'"*
>
> *Jeremiah 7:30–32*

Related to the idolatrous worship of Baal and Molech the Israelites...

> *"...rejected the commandments of the Lord … and served Baal. They consigned their sons and daughters to the fire"*
>
> *2 Kings 17:16–17; Jeremiah 32:35*

King Josiah put a stop to this practice in the seventh century B.C.:

> *"[King Josiah of Judah] defiled Tophet, which is in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom, so that no one might consign his son or daughter to the fire of Molech."*
>
> *2 Kings 23:10*

Throughout both the Old and New Testaments, God's Word has much to say about the sanctity of human life. Life is sacred, because God created mankind in His own image and as such, has endowed mankind with the ability to also create life.

> *"27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."*
>
> *Genesis 1:27 (ESV)*

Creating life is a gift of God that requires significant responsibility both for Him and for us. God's creation of humankind was intentional...the result of His power and sovereignty over the expanse of both the universe as we comprehend it and that which is beyond our imagination. As He is responsible for all of His creation, He has also made us responsible for our use of our God-given ability to procreate our kind in His likeness.

At the heart of the current abortion issue is humankind's perception of when "life" begins. Is it at conception or at some other moment along the pathway to being birthed as the child we then see outside of its mother's womb?

If life does not begin at conception, then when is that "moment" when a human being has been created? If, at that definable "moment" a human being has finally been rendered in the womb, then how did it achieve this status? At what point if any, can an abortion be performed without destroying a person?

How does "something" (a fertilized egg) become something else if the "something" is not yet alive? Biologically, this "something" is alive and is called a "zygote," the results of the initial fertilization of a mother's egg." At this very instance, the complete DNA of a human being…the complete identity map required to create an individual person, exists in this singular cell.

So, in the Christian Bible, what does God say about this "moment in time" when a new creation of His design transitions to "personhood"? In <u>God's eye, "life" begins at the time of conception..</u>.no further discussion or instruction is necessary...

> *"13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."*
>
> *Psalm 139:13 (ESV)*

On more than one occasion, God's Word speaks to His foreknowledge of some of those whom He called to ser-

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vice as prophets before they were formed in the womb.

> *"[5]Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."*
>
> *Jeremiah 1:5 (ESV)*

> *"[1]Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name."*
>
> *Isaiah 49:1 (ESV)*

> *"[23] And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."*
>
> *Genesis 25:23 (ESV)*

> *"[15] for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb."*
>
> *Luke 1:15 (ESV)*

From the aforementioned passages, it is clear that God not only considers the wonder of that which is taking place in a mother's womb to be a person, but a person with God's blessing and foreknowledge of the person's destiny outside of the womb!

Although God's Word does not specifically address "abortion-on-demand," the Bible does establish the existence and sanctity of human life within a mother's womb...

> *"[22]"When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman's husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. [23] But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, [24] eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, [25] burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."*
>
> *Exodus 21:22-25 (ESV)*

(Note that there is no mention of the child's age.)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Christian during World War II Germany who was imprisoned by the Nazis as a result of his beliefs and influence on the people of Germany. In one of his writings, he commented on the subject of abortion:

> *"Destruction of the embryo in the mother's womb is a violation of the right to live which God has bestowed upon this nascent life. To raise the question whether we are here concerned already with a human being or not is merely to confuse the issue. The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being and that this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder."*
>
> Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Ethics, Illustrations Unlimited

Bonhoeffer's assessment of the abortion act being the equivalent of murder is merely an echo of God's written instruction as found in the "Ten Commandments":

> *"[13]You shall not murder."*
>
> *Exodus 20:13 (ESV)*

Why is abortion such an issue anyway?

As an early baby boomer, I can remember that abortion was not a big issue. The rare occasion to make it so was the result of a promiscuous relationship between a guy and a girl who went "too far" in the back seat of a car. Since my youthful years, America has evolved into a country that has morphed into a more secular than Christian society. Catalysts of our changing values have included: the removal of the Bible from our public schools; the demise of the traditional role of married women as homemakers; the ascendency of material values over those that are spiritual; and legal challenges of the ACLU, on behalf of a minority voice, to squelch our former Judeo-Christian values.

As a result of this metamorphosis, sexual promiscuity

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has become a casual event. Large portions of our society, through ignorance or rejection of God's Word, have engaged in sexually immoral relationships. Throughout both testaments, God warns us against sexual promiscuity, including adultery and homosexuality.

Reports/presentations from two liberal pro-abortion organizations The PRCH *(Physicians for Reproductive Choice & Health and the Guttmacher Institute*) state that in 2008 there were approximately **3 million unplanned pregnancies** in the United States. Of these, approximately **half (1.21 million)** were terminated by abortion because the birth of the child would be **"inconvenient"** for one reason or another.

According to their statistics, abortion is practiced today primarily as a form of birth control and nearly half of all abortions are performed on unmarried women.

Unmarried women who seek abortions illustrate that a vast number of Americans have adopted both a casual attitude about abortion as well as the sexual promiscuity that resulted in the pregnancy to begin with.

The predominate reasons given by women who had abortions include:

- Concern for/responsibility to other individuals
- Cannot afford a baby now
- A baby would interfere with school/employment/ ability to care for dependents
- Would be a single parent or having relationship problems
- Has completed childbearing

Pretty casual and selfish reasons aren't they? Have they not heard or care that..

> *"[3] Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward."*
>
> *Psalm 127:3 (ESV)*

Have we as Christians missed opportunities to present the Word to those who are uninformed? Are we too casual about our responsibility to fulfilling the Great Commission? I am guilty...my sins of omission are many...how about you?

According to "The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity: An A-To-Z Guide To Following Christ in Every Aspect of Life":

> *"… the Christian community must not abdicate its responsibility in the prevention of abortion in our society. This must be achieved through education of our teenagers and young adults with regard to moral sexual conduct and responsible family planning. Sexual abilities are given to human beings to experience in part on earth what God is fully in eternity—love. Children, as a product of the love between husband and wife, are gifts from God to deepen the experience of love. No sex or childbearing outside the institution of marriage fulfills this divine intention. Christian education in the form of counseling is also important, and participation with a Christ like humility and patience in organizations such as Pregnancy Crisis Center enables a Christian community to resolve and persevere with the abortion dilemma."*

Remember God's Word through Ezekiel…

[7] Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel; so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. [8] "When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require from your hand. [9] "But if you on your part warn a wicked man to turn from his way and he does not turn from his way, he will die in his iniquity, but you have delivered your life.

Ezekiel 33:7-9 (NASB)

What does God have to say about abortion? Don't do it!

***Exodus 20:13* -- Thou shalt not commit murder**

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