



ARE YOU PRO-LIFE?

This is a subject that has been on my mind for some time but I have been reluctant to attempt to write about it. It's easy enough to say abortions (in general) are wrong, but it is more difficult to take a Biblical stand on it. I am going to face the issue in a rather strange way - from death.

When does a person die? I am not referring to the time your physical body dies. Your body begins to die when you are born. Parts of it continue to live for a while after your body is buried. The question I am really asking is, "When does your spirit, and soul, leave your body?" Neither medical science nor the legal profession has found the answer to this question. No one can say. We know when you are alive and we know when you are dead but we can not know the exact moment you go from one state to the other.

Next point. Suppose you were to go into a hospital room and shoot someone and then, later, find out the person had already died. Are you guilty of murder? No, the person was already dead - BUT, you are guilty of attempted murder. You can still be tried and sent to prison for that. The key point is whether or not you knew the person was dead before you shot.

Now, let's go to the other end of human life. At what point in time does your spirit, and soul, enter your body? When you are born? When you are conceived? I do not know the answer to that either. I do know what the Bible has to say (which is not much).

"If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, Exodus 21:22-23

This is the only passage I know of that expressly indicates that the taking of the life of an unborn child is murder, punishable by *life for life*.

The Scripture is clear on this. If the unborn child dies, it is murder, punishable by death.

Now, the argument one may make is at what point a fetus becomes a "child." When does the spirit and soul enter the fetus? If we could answer this question, we would solve a lot of the debate going on over abortion - but we can't! Going back to shooting a patient in the hospital, knowledge is the key. Since we have no knowledge of when the fetus receives the spirit, we have to assume it is at conception. If you abort a fetus at any stage you will be guilty, at least, of attempted murder.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace,
Galatians 1:15

Paul here clearly states that he existed in his mother's womb and was called by God.

For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13

The Psalmist agrees with Paul. God took care of him even in his mother's womb.

The argument will, no doubt go on for years. There is no argument if you believe the Bible.

In concluding, let me be sure to point out that there are exceptions. If it is necessary to perform an abortion - both the mother and child will die without it, there is no question as to its necessity. Medical professionals (especially in emergency rooms and other emergency situations) have to make decisions as to which lives can be saved and which can not every day. Today's "words" deal only with "abortion on demand"

Do you have a subject you would like to see covered in future weeks? I will be happy to receive suggestions for future topics.

Wayne

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