

God Loves Babies!

To show His unconditional and never ending love for His children, God declared in Isaiah 49:15, *“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.”* God took the strongest human affection we would be familiar with (a mother/child relationship) and made a point of saying, even the strongest bond between a mother and child could at times be compromised. He proclaims that He would never -- under any set of circumstances -- stop loving or desert His own. Even in the world of nature we see the strong love of the mothering instinct. When my wife and I were in Africa a herd of elephants crossed our safari trail. As the procession rapidly advanced, the mother elephant took steps toward our vehicle, raised her trunk and thundered a warning that we were to come no closer. We decided it best not to argue with a full-grown elephant! The mothering instinct is so natural, to go against it is to go against nature. I was reading recently about the thoughts that go through the minds of women waiting to receive their abortions: "It will be over soon. I just won't think about it. I'll just go on with my life like before. It wouldn't be legal if it weren't right; it wouldn't be legal if it weren't safe. I just won't think about it." Others who consider their pending abortions to be an evil necessity, are saying goodbye: "Forgive me. Mommy doesn't want to do this, but I really don't have any choice. If only I could have you, I would love you so much." For some their wait is unemotional, but they are intellectually tortured by the metaphysical question: "Am I doing the right thing?" Others are carefully focused on their answers to this same question: "This is the right thing, the only thing to do. I can always have a baby later, when the time is right, when I can be a good mother. It wouldn't be fair to me, to Jim, or even to the baby, to have it now." Why is this type of argument going on in a woman's heart? It is basically because of guilt. Seventy-five percent of Americans believe abortion is immoral. There is clearly a tension in our hearts between what should be legal and what is actually moral. This tension is especially visible in abortion clinic waiting rooms. Interviews at clinics confirm that at least seventy percent of the women having abortions view abortion as immoral, or at least deviant behavior!

Today we commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the infamous passing of the Roe versus Wade law that makes it legal for the life of an unborn baby to be taken. It is estimated that more than fifty-five million babies lives have been taken in this ever-growing holocaust. Perhaps the most poignant question we could be pondering on this anniversary would be that of most every child at sometime during their early childhood: "Mommy, where do babies come from?" Please don't be alarmed! We are not going to involve ourselves with an explanation of the birds and the bees; my desire is to give the most truthful and obvious answer to that question. Babies come from God. Therefore, since babies come from God:

1. Babies belong to God.

My wife and I have always viewed our children as belonging to God and they were only on loan to us. We give a tenth of our income to God to show that all of our income actually is His; the tenth shows God's ownership of all I have. God said to Moses, "*Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.*" (Exodus 13:2). We all should say, "Lord, You own everything I have, including my children, all my children."

2. Babies are separate entities from their mothers.

The argument is often, "It's my body; I can do whatever I want with my body." As a Christian, I am not permitted to think such nonsense, for I belong to God -- end of argument. But for those who are not considering God's sovereignty over life, this doesn't speak to them. What should speak to them, however, is the fact that a baby is not the mere extension of a mother's body! No matter how you spin it, women don't have four arms and four legs when they're pregnant. Those extra appendages belong to the tiny human being(s) living inside of them. At no point in pregnancy is the developing embryo or fetus simply a part of the mother's body. Ironically, the late Christopher Hitchens, a prominent public intellectual, atheist, and abortion advocate wrote the following in his book, God Is Not Great: "As a materialist, I think it has been demonstrated that an embryo is a separate body and entity, and not merely (as some really did used to argue) a growth on or in the female body. There used to be feminists who would say that it was more like an appendix or even—this was seriously maintained—a tumor. That nonsense seems to have stopped.... Embryology confirms morality. The words "unborn child," even when used in a politicized manner, describes a material reality." Even Hitchens recognized the absurdity of claiming that unborn children are simply part of the mother's body. So even if you run from the very existence of God, you cannot do away with the empirical evidence that a baby is a unique individual, all its own wrapped in a tiny, but viable package.

3. Babies should be loved in the same way God loves His children.

Returning to our theme verse, "*Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee*" (Isaiah 49:15). Sadly, many a mother has chosen to discard the life within her before the precious little one would ever qualify as a nursing child. I know this is beyond the realm of most anyone's belief system who is reading this, however, the monstrous effect of the fall of mankind since the Garden of Eden necessitates that we believe almost any ungodly atrocity is possible, apart from the saving grace of God. I emphasize apart from the saving grace of God. Because of the saving grace of God we can not only live the life that is remarkable, but also we can actually allow God to live His life through us! One of the most life-changing Bible verses in my life is Galatians 2:20, which says, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in*

me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

The point I wish to drive home is, if Christ lives and reigns in my life, I shall love my children with God's love. My love is weak, my love is fickle, and my love will not last. On the other hand, God's love is strong, always constant and will last forever. Today, is a good time to remind ourselves to love our children through God's love. There can be no more secure embrace a child can enjoy than when he or she knows they are loved in this way. *“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:38,39).

-Pastor Pope-

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