

WHY IS PRO-LIFE RIGHT AND ABORTION WRONG?

On January 22, 1973, by a Supreme Court vote of seven to two, abortion became legal in The United States of America. To borrow historical rhetoric, "...a day that will live in infamy." It was deemed legal that a woman could, by her choice, terminate the life of her unborn baby. Today it is estimated that 56 million unborn babies' lives have been taken since Roe versus Wade was passed. More and more shocking reports are being released, such as a recent study done that found that 86 per cent of all abortions done are for convenience. The parents did not want the baby to inconvenience their lives, so they killed the child!

Our belief on this most important issue is founded upon the Word of God. The Bible is our final authority. Allow me to give you four good Bible reasons that abortion is wrong and pro-life is right.

1. God is the giver of life.

In the first chapter of the Bible it says, *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them"* (Genesis 1:27). *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul"* (Genesis 2:7). Thirty-two times in the first chapter of Genesis, we discover that God spoke the creation into existence such as the sun, moon, stars, earth and animals, but when He made man, He placed His loving hand into His creation and formed him. The Hebrew word for "form" is "yatsar," which means to mold into a form, especially as a potter molds, shapes and makes something out of the pliable clay. When God made man and woman, it was unique only in that they were the first to experience this creation. Listen to what Jeremiah said, *"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"* (Jeremiah 1:5). Jeremiah was as intricately "formed" as Adam and it is to be noted this life giving formation took place in His mother's womb. The Psalmist cried, *"I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly"* (Psalm 22:10). David said, *"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb"* (Psalm 139:13). The word "cover" in Hebrew

is "sakak" and is defined "to fence in, cover over, hedge in, join together, and to weave." You may ask how can that which means to "cover over" also mean "to weave"? Here is the beauty of God's creative ability; it means that every man after Adam and Eve, created in their mother's womb, is a person before there is any shape or definable substance. Man, like his Creator is three in one. We are body, soul and spirit. We are not a body that has a soul; we are a soul and spirit that has a body. This is so very beautiful! God breathes life in the womb, weaving together his soul and spirit then He weaves together a baby's body covering the real person. This truth is illustrated in the oldest book in the Bible, Job 10: 8-12.

Understanding and believing life begins at conception brings us to the heart of the issue. Our final authority again is the precious Word of God, *"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son"* (Ruth 4:13). Boaz and Ruth came together as husband and wife, but God gave conception. God gives life! Men and women do not "make babies" as modern slang usage suggests; God makes babies. The Bible records, *"And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing..."* (Genesis 16:2). Five chapters later we read, *"For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him"* (Genesis 21:2). We see this principle repeated in the Bible; God withholds life, then He grants life. Where? In the mother's womb. When? At the point of conception. We therefore concede with the Psalmist: *"Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture"* (Psalm 100:3).

2. God considers babies a gift and blessing.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3). When Rachel could not have children she cried out in desperation, *"...Give me children, or else I die"* (Genesis 30:1). Later in the chapter we read, *"And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach"* (Gen. 30:22,23). An antonym of "reproach" is "honor." Rachel considered it an honor to bare children. God is to be glorified and honored. It dishonors God to dare intrude in creation process. One woman said she considered a baby an invasion of her life and therefore had a right to remove it. That baby is a gift from God; no one has a right to discard it! Job said, *"...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return*

thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). It is God's prerogative alone to give or take life.

3. The premeditated taking of a life is forbidden by God.

One of the Ten Commandments is: *"Thou shalt not kill"* (Exodus 20:13). The word "kill" in Hebrew is "ratsach" which means to murder and in some cases more literally rendered, "to dash in pieces." What a terrorizing term! This is often what exactly happens in an abortion. It will do all of us well to remember this is a commandment, not suggestion. Our Declaration of Independence says this right is given by our Creator and no other person has the right to take that precious gift from another. It is believed that one of the most well-crafted and important sentences ever written in the English language comes to us from the Declaration of Independence. Conservatives as well as liberals, Bible-believers as well as unbelievers appreciate it. The sentence to which we refer says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

In a children's dictionary, the definition of "unalienable" is: impossible to take away or give up. I came across this lawyer's definition of "unalienable": "it is called un-a-lien-a-ble where "lien" is pronounced "leen"...meaning you cannot place a lien on it, so it can never be taken away, as opposed to un- alien-able which refers to an alien which has nothing to do with the meaning." In our legal documentation, we not only have the right to Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, but also to Life! No person in this country has the right to pre-meditatively take the life of another person.

To assure you that God means for us to consider the unborn as life He says, *"If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life"* (Exodus 21:22,23). To what measure the baby is harmed, the man who caused the harm will be reciprocated. If the unborn baby dies, he dies. This is following the command found in Genesis 9:6: *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."*

4. There are no unwanted babies.

You may not want the child, but if God wants the baby to live, for heaven's sake, let it live! God loves babies! Jesus said, *"...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God"* (Mark 10:14). The terminology for little children can just as easily be translated "infants." I recently talked to a couple that would gladly spend upwards of 30,000 dollars to obtain an adoption. God and somebody else want that baby! God is pro-life. If there is any doubt in your mind about that stated fact, I close with this Bible verse to meditate on: *"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live"* (Deuteronomy 30:19).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.