

KILLING THE UNBORN

The Alan Guttmacher Institute (Planned Parenthood's research affiliate which tracks abortion rates), reported that between 1973 and 2004, 48,589,992 unborn babies were aborted in the United States. This means 4294 unborn babies were killed per day.

People are reported evenly divided in approval or disapproval of Roe vs Wade. Roe, (Norma L. McCorvey), now opposes the Supreme Court decision she brought about. Many believe a national referendum would override Roe vs Wade..

The choice of words used seem a major reason this has not already been done. Favoring "free choice" depends on the subject! If we are talking about freedom to kill unborn babies for any reason up to the moment before birth, no way!

Christians seek a Biblical basis for their beliefs. Exodus 21:22-23 states, "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she has a miscarriage, yet there is no further injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty, life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."

Some say the use of the word "child" in reference to the fetus indicates it is a person. Others say the passage is not clear and can be otherwise translated. Where the passage speaks of "further injury", and states a sentence of life for life, some say this refers to both the woman and the miscarried child. Others say this relates only to the mother. What is clear is that causing a miscarriage was considered by God a punishable crime.

Most would agree that the command not to murder (Exodus 20:13), relates to the fetuses if life begins at conception. Various passages say God knows persons while they are in their mother's womb. That human life begins in the womb is indicated in: Gen. 25:21-25, Judges 13:6-7, Isaiah 49:1, Jer. 1:5, Luke 1:15, 39-44, Gal. 1:15. I will quote here the words of Elizabeth when she was six months pregnant with John (later called the Baptist), on the occasion of a visit from Mary (later to give birth to Jesus): "For behold, when the voice of your greeting, (Mary's), came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy" (Luke 1:44).

Some say 1st century Jews were so convinced that killing children in the womb was a sin that it was not a problem and therefore not mentioned. That such a conviction existed is demonstrated in writings such as the following:

- a. The Pseudo-Phocylides said, "A woman should not destroy the unborn babe in her belly, nor after its birth throw it before the dogs and vultures as a prey (50 B.C. to 50 A.D).
- b. The Sibylline Oracles (150-200 A.D.), speak of evil women who "produce abortions and unlawfully cast their offspring away," and of sorcerers who "make abortifacients available."
- c. The late 1st century or early 2nd century book, 1 Enoch, says an evil angel "taught how to smash the embryo in the womb."
- d. Philo of Alexandria taught that one causing an abortion should be fined if the fetus was unformed, and killed if it was formed (25 B.C.–41 A.D.).
- e. Josephus (1st century) said, "The law orders all the offspring to be brought up, and forbids women either to cause abortion or to make away with the fetus." (Quotes are found in "The Good News Library", <http://www.goodnewsmag.org/library/articles/gorman-mj93.htm>).
- f. Ferguson states. "Christians view the fetus as God's creation. They insisted that the destruction of the fetus was murder and that the perpetrators should be punished as murderers. Didache 2:2, and Barnabas 20:1-2 prohibited abortion as murder." (Encyclopedia of Early Christianity, Garland Pub., 1990, p. 4)

The Bible is the Christians' guide, and not what the State may permit. For the guilty, abortion is no harder to forgive than any other sin. However, repentance must involve the intent to not continue such a sin. Christians are taught to love the sinner and hate the sin, just as God does.

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