

## **Abortion: The Biblical, Medical, and Moral Perspectives**

**Dr. Michael A. Cox**

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**Topic:** Abortion

**Central Idea of Message:** Abortion is wrong from the biblical perspective, the medical perspective, and the moral perspective.

**Introduction:** Read humor from kids. Read illustrations. Read Blue Ridge Pregnancy Center statistics.

In times past words such as pornography, homosexuality, and abortion were terms which caused most people to blush. Now, however, these words are part of the vocabulary used by the media to describe some of the most twisted thoughts ever to enter the human mind.

A former pastor of mine once said that to address the issue of abortion used to be considered indelicate, but that addressing it now is imperative. My message today focuses on the abortion issue from three different perspectives, arguing passionately and, I hope, persuasively, that it is wrong from the biblical perspective, the medical perspective, and the moral perspective.

### I. The Biblical Perspective

- A. Gen. 1:26-27: all forms of life deserve **respect**, but human life demands **reverence**<sup>1</sup> because of the presence of the image of God in each one
- B. Gen. 9:6: the **value** of human life is stressed throughout the Bible
- C. Exod. 20:13: thou shalt do no **murder**
- D. Exod. 21:22: a baby in the **womb** is to be protected as a human being
- E. Exod. 23:7: do not kill the **innocent** or the **righteous**
- F. Ps. 51:5: the human inclination toward sin begins at **conception**, not birth; thus, life begins at **conception**
- G. Ps. 139:13-16: God views the embryonic condition of a baby as completely **human** even while **unborn**

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<sup>1</sup>Richard D. Land, *Is Life a Right?* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1990).

1. God is credited with forming the inner organs, not nature, and the process is described, by way of parallelism, as weaving (v. 13)
  2. God is to be thanked for creating life and creation of human life is both incredible and marvelous (v. 14)
  3. God saw us as we were developing, and this development was an orderly, artful process done on earth (v. 15)
  4. God saw the unformed mass or embryonic condition of the psalmist and he was viewed as already complete, though unborn (v. 16)
- H. Prov. 24:11: deliver those being taken away to death
- I. Isa. 13:18
1. Prophecy about Media-Persia, a heathen nation
  2. Characterization of Medo-Persia's brutality was graphically portrayed by its lack of compassion for the fruit of the **womb**
  3. America must not act like a heathen nation!
- J. Isa. 64:8: all people are the work of God's hands
- K. Jer. 1:5
1. God fashions babies in the womb
  2. God has great things in store for unborn infants
  3. God's involvement with each human life begins even before conception
- L. Hos. 9:11: birth, pregnancy, and conception mean life
1. Poetic judgment of barrenness on rebellious Israel
  2. These three stages are grouped together suggesting no difference in life forms and that life begins at conception
  3. This arrangement further suggests that no qualitative difference exists, in terms of the humanness of the baby, regardless of the stage of development
- M. The biblical perspective is that life begins at conception: we must think of these unborn infants as real persons
- II. The Medical Perspective
- A. Fertilization
1. A fertilized egg cell is implanted in the uterine wall within ten days of fertilization, the fertilized egg cell then begins to produce its **own**

**hormone** at fourteen days, which suppresses the mother's menstrual cycle<sup>2</sup>

2. At the moment of fertilization all twenty three chromosomes (twenty three pairs totaling forty six chromosomes) and approximately 50,000 genes from each parent combine to determine all physical characteristics including gender, facial features, body type, color of hair, eyes, and skin, as well as intelligence, personality, and feelings - all at conception<sup>3</sup>

B. Fetal development

1. There is a heart which pulsates at **twenty four** days after conception<sup>4</sup> (before most girls even know they are pregnant!)
2. At the end of four weeks the growing baby is a quarter of an inch long
3. Brain waves can be recorded at **forty three** days after conception<sup>5</sup>
4. At the end of eight weeks (two months)
  - a) The growing baby is one and one quarter of an inch long<sup>6</sup>
  - b) Distinct facial features are appearing
  - c) Limbs and internal organs are developing
5. At the end of twelve weeks (three months)
  - a) The growing baby is three inches long<sup>7</sup> and weighs about an ounce
  - b) Arms and hands have appeared
  - c) There are fingers with finger-nails
  - d) The legs and feet are fully formed

C. Differences between mother and child

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<sup>2</sup>*Life Before Birth* (Wheaton, IL: Good News Publishers, n.d.).

<sup>3</sup>*What They Never Told Us About the Facts of Life* (Norcross, GA: Human Development Resource Council, Inc., 1996).

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>*Life Before Birth*.

<sup>6</sup>*What They Never Told Us About the Facts of Life*.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

1. No qualitative difference, only quantitative: equal in essence (essential components) not in age
    - a) Different blood types, hearts, limbs, and organs
    - b) The baby is a unique life
  2. Yet many states give mothers absolute authority over whether or not the baby lives or dies
    - a) Infants as young as twenty four weeks have been able to survive premature birth<sup>8</sup>
    - b) Doctors are now more capable of treating the baby while still in the womb
    - c) The unborn baby can be a patient
    - d) Fetus
      - (1) Latin for unborn vertebrate
      - (2) Has evolved to suggest "subhuman"
      - (3) Pro-abortionists regard the baby simply as a mass of tissue in the mother's body
      - (4) An abortion becomes, then, a surgical procedure designed to remove the unwanted growth just as with a cyst or a tumor, no more uncommon than having a tooth pulled!
- D. Methods of aborting
1. Medical abortions: aka "Chemical" and "Pharmaceutical" abortions
    - a) "Morning After Pill" aka "Plan B" and "Emergency Contraception"
      - (1) Approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use within seventy-two hours after sexual activity<sup>9</sup>
      - (2) Some clinics use it up to five days after sexual activity; prevents pregnancy<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Larry D. Lewis, *What the Bible Teaches about Abortion* (Nashville, TN: The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1997), 7.

<sup>9</sup>Valeska Littlefield, Director, Hope Pregnancy Center Tulsa, Oklahoma, interview by author, Pryor, Oklahoma, 16 January 2009.

<sup>10</sup>[Http://www.fwhc.org/abortion/medical-ab.htm](http://www.fwhc.org/abortion/medical-ab.htm), accessed 15 January 2009.

- (3) Preventing implantation<sup>11</sup>
- b) RU-486
  - (1) Approved for distribution by the Food and Drug Administration in 2000
  - (2) Causes contractions resulting in a miscarriage
  - (3) Used when less than eight weeks pregnant<sup>12</sup>
  - (4) Only approved by the FDA for pregnancies up to seven weeks<sup>13</sup>
- 2. Surgical abortions
  - a) Suction aspiration<sup>14</sup>
    - (1) Most common during first twelve weeks
    - (2) Cervix is quickly dilated, causing tearing
    - (3) A suction curette (a hollow tube with a knife-edged tip) is inserted into the womb, connected to a vacuum machine twenty-nine times more powerful than a household vacuum cleaner, which tears the fetus and placenta into small pieces while suctioning the pieces into a bottle to be discarded
  - b) Dilation and curettage: D&C<sup>15</sup>
    - (1) Similar to the suction method
    - (2) Adds a hook shaped knife which cuts the baby into pieces, which are then scraped out through the cervix and discarded
    - (3) Do not confuse with a therapeutic D&C
  - c) Dilation and evacuation<sup>16</sup>
    - (1) Forceps are inserted into the womb to grasp the fetus

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<sup>11</sup>[http://www.lifesitenews.com/abortiontypes/chabortion\\_types.html](http://www.lifesitenews.com/abortiontypes/chabortion_types.html), accessed 16 January 2009.

<sup>12</sup><http://www.fwhc.org/abortion/medical-ab.htm>, accessed 15 January 2009.

<sup>13</sup>Littlefield.

<sup>14</sup><http://www.lifesitenews.com/abortiontypes>.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

- (2) The teeth of the forceps twist and tear the bones until dismembered
- (3) Pieces are then vacuumed out of the womb and reassembled like a puzzle to make sure nothing was missed
  - (a) Disposed of in trash bags, garbage disposals, or incinerators
  - (b) It is possible for a woman's intestines to be sucked out through the uterus and out the cervix during this procedure
- d) Saline injection (salt poisoning): burned to death by lethal injection (read excerpt from Eliff)
- e) Hysterotomy (Caesarean section): lethal injection into the baby's heart using the ultrasound to guide, or cut the umbilical cord causing suffocation,<sup>17</sup> then cut open the abdomen and remove
- f) Partial birth abortion (PBA)
  - (1) Abortionist must crush and kill the baby in the womb
  - (2) The doctor may pierce the base of the infant's skull with surgical scissors and insert a catheter into the opening and suction out the brain<sup>18</sup>
  - (3) Illegal in Virginia as of 2003, setting a national precedent, illegal in Oklahoma too
    - (a) In Oklahoma viability is presumed after the twenty-fourth week<sup>19</sup>
    - (b) Abortions are legal through this time
    - (c) After twenty-four weeks they can be done if deemed necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother

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<sup>17</sup>Ibid.

<sup>18</sup>"Partial-birth Abortion Debate: Minds Were Changed, Lives Saved" *Baptist Messenger* (Oklahoma) 15 January 2004, 5.

<sup>19</sup><http://law.findlaw.com/state-laws/abortion/oklahoma>, accessed 15 January 2009.



6. Strain on the relationship: but only two out of every eleven relationships are still intact within seven months after the abortion<sup>20</sup>
  7. The majority of abortions (98 percent) are done as **birth control**,<sup>21</sup> making abortion the contraceptive of choice
- C. Babies become victims of **promiscuous sex**
- D. God will hold the unrepentant accountable, individually and corporately
1. One former abortion clinic owner said Sunday was the most profitable day of all<sup>22</sup>
  2. Abortion counselors are paid to sell abortions
  3. Offer free ultrasounds: 90 percent of the women who see an ultrasound of their unborn baby at the Hope Pregnancy Center in Tulsa choose life for the baby, not abortion, and if the father of the baby sees it the rate soars to 100 percent, because, for every pregnant woman there is a man, and he is the biggest decision-maker of all regarding the pregnancy<sup>23</sup>
- E. Straining at gnats and swallowing camels
1. In most states a child under eighteen cannot get a prescription without parental consent or even get an aspirin at school: prescription humor
  2. A child under eighteen cannot vote
  3. A child under sixteen cannot drive (thank God!)
  4. Yet a school counselor can refer a pregnant teen to Planned Parenthood without parental approval
  5. Most (at least forty) states have passed Parental Involvement Laws requiring a parent to be notified before the minor daughter can have an abortion, but this notification can be subject to a judicial

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<sup>20</sup>"Abortion: Is There a Health Risk?" *Focus* (June 1991) in Eliff.

<sup>21</sup>*It Shouldn't Happen to a Dog* (Wichita, KS: Victory Won, n.d.).

<sup>22</sup>Carol Everett, *What I Saw in the Abortion Industry* (Jefferson City, MO: Easton Publishing Company, Inc., 1988).

<sup>23</sup>Littlefield.

- bypass option which allows the girl to involve a judge rather than her parents<sup>24</sup>
6. A February 2007 study conducted by Professor Michael New at the University of Alabama "found that the abortion rate among minors plummeted by 50 percent between 1985 and 1999, compared with an overall abortion decline of 29 percent," and laws requiring parental involvement and abortion-funding restrictions contributed to the declines<sup>25</sup>
  7. Our tax dollars pay for some of these abortions!
  8. It will be a cold day in Hades before I ever vote for any candidate endorsing abortion or ever give a penny to a charitable organization funneling money to pay for abortion counseling or abortions!
- F. 1857 Dred Scott Supreme Court decision
1. Blacks were not people but slaves, mere property; therefore, they had no rights under the Constitution of the United States
  2. The Supreme Court was wrong in 1857 and 1973!
  3. Will the frail, crippled, retarded, autistic, and elderly be next?
- G. America's own *Declaration of Independence* asserts that humans have certain inalienable rights, and the first mentioned is life!
- H. "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people" (Prov. 14:34)
- I. The moral perspective is that life begins at conception: we must think of these unborn infants as real humans entitled to unforfeitable rights!
- J. **Adoption** is always an option<sup>26</sup>
1. More than 2 million couples are waiting to adopt
    - a) 1.29 million or more babies were aborted in 2002 in the United States<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>Charles Biggs, "Death Toll Hits 42 Million Babies with Legalized Abortion," *Tulsa Beacon*, 22 January 2003, 1, 4.

<sup>25</sup>Lynn Vincent, "Life after Carhart," *World*, January 12/19, 2008, 64.

<sup>26</sup>*It Shouldn't Happen to a Dog.*

<sup>27</sup>Jerry Price, "Abortion Statistics," <<http://erlc.com/article/abortion-statistics>>, January 2006, accessed 13 January 2009.

- b) Oklahoma recorded 7,088 in 2006, but these numbers do not include Planned Parenthood<sup>28</sup>
  - c) In Mayes County 6 percent of pregnancies end in abortion<sup>29</sup>
  - d) About 50 million since Roe v. Wade!
2. My personal testimony
- a) Cellular heritage is unnecessary when it comes to being wanted and loved!
  - b) Moses was saved from certain death through adoption
  - c) Joseph received Jesus as his own and raised him as such

**Conclusion:** I urge you to turn to God by confessing your sin and receiving Christ. It does not matter today if you have had ten abortions, the blood of Jesus Christ can wash away those ten sins and all the others as well! He will adopt you today! Abortion is a sin. It is a terrible sin; yet, our savior died for all sin and for all sinners. Forgiveness is yours for the asking.

Maybe your sin is not abortion. But, for any smugly self-righteous listeners, I remind that the Bible is also against hatred, fornication, adultery, and greed. We all need God's forgiveness. Read Paul Harvey's on-air prayer.

In Deut. 30:15-19 the people of God are instructed to choose life. Surely God has not changed his mind about this directive. What can we do today? (1) Encourage sexual abstinence until marriage (True Love Waits - for marriage!); (2) get informed by becoming acquainted with the laws and our lawmakers in an effort to pass legislation to protect the unborn; (3) become involved by supporting pro-life pregnancy centers, like the Hope Pregnancy Center in Tulsa, which Oklahoma Southern Baptists help fund through the Baptist Foundation (30 percent of their funding) and the Cooperative Program (10 percent of their funding), counseling clinics, and adoption agencies; (4) be prepared to speak your pro-life stance competently; (5) never participate in or condone bombing of abortion clinics or murder of abortion doctors; (6) recognize that moral reformation will never occur until personal spiritual revival happens. Let it happen in you today.

**Forgiveness** (1 John 1:9) and **salvation** (John 3:16) are yours for the asking!

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<sup>28</sup>Littlefield.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid.