

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #172

A BIBLICAL LOOK AT ABORTION

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

A woman should have the right to choose what to do with her own body.

Really? Let's see what the Bible says:

1st Corinthians 6:20 *For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

1st Corinthians 7:23 *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servant of men.*

2nd Peter 2:1 *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*

There is no distinction in the Biblical language between the unborn and the born child. The same word applies to both the fetus of John the Baptist within Elizabeth's womb, who leaped when Mary greeted Elizabeth, her cousin and to the babe Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. This Greek word is *brephos* and applies to both a fetus and a baby. The word in Hebrew is *yeled* and is used scripturally for the unborn, for young children, and even occasionally for teens or even young adults. The Hebrews did not have a separate word for an unborn child because they considered fetuses as just like any other child, except younger. Job 10:8-12 tells us that the person in the womb was not something that might become Job but someone who was Job, just a younger version. In the first century and in every century to be pregnant is to be *with child*, not with what might become a child. The idea that one becomes "human" or receives a soul at any stage later than conception is not biblical.

...we must begin by acknowledging that the Bible doesn't say anything about abortion directly. Why the silence of the Bible on abortion? The answer is simple. Abortion was so unthinkable to an Israelite woman that there was no need to even mention it in the criminal code. Why was abortion an unthinkable act? First, children were viewed as a gift or heritage from the Lord. Second, the Scriptures state-and the Jews concurred-that God opens and closes the womb and is sovereign over conception. Third, childlessness was seen as a curse. Kerby Anderson

Scriptures relating to abortion:

Psalm 139:13-16 *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

Psalm 51:5 *Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

The early Church Fathers, as far as I can tell, wrote universally against abortion. Some examples:

Do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant. The Didache, a second-century catechism for young converts

It does not matter whether you take away a life that is born or destroy one that is coming to the birth. In both instances, destruction is murder. Tertullian

The fetus, though enclosed in the womb of the mother, is already a human being, and it is a most monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. John Calvin

Augustine warned against the terrible crime of *"the murder of an unborn child."*
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No matter what you have done, there is forgiveness in Christ. (The only unpardonable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit which really means never accepting Christ.) *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of god. **And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.** 1st Corinthians 6:9-11 KJV*

Prayer from Neil Anderson's *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*

Lord Jesus, I confess that I was not a proper guardian and keeper of the life You entrusted to me, and I confess that I have sinned. Thank You that because of Your forgiveness, I can forgive myself. I commit the child to You for all eternity and believe that he or she is in Your caring hands. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.