

The Deep End

Week 4: Abortion & The Womb

Weekly Summary: Abortion is one of culture's most complex debates, spilling onto street corners, court rooms, and social media threads. But what does the Bible have to say about this issue, if anything? How should followers of Jesus personally feel about abortion, given the multitude of reasons that unplanned pregnancies are ended?

◆ The primary issue is **personhood**.

◆ 5 Common Answers to the Issue:

1. We become people at **conception**.

2. We become people at **recognition**.



3. We become people at **viability**.

- ◆ “Before twenty-two weeks, a fetus is not in any way equal to ‘a baby’ or ‘a child...Every one of the fetal parts—head, body, limbs—like a puzzle that has to be put back together...I place them together, re-creating the fetus in the pan. I have done this so many times that it has become routine: no matter what these parts may look like, this is organic matter that does not add up to anything that can live on its own.”
~ Dr. Willie Parker

4. We become people at **desire**.

- ◆ “The simple truth is this: if a sperm and egg come together when a child is desired, a human being is born. But if a sperm and egg come together when a woman knows in her bones that it is not the right time for her to be a mother, then perhaps what is born is her own confident agency over her life.” ~ From Shout Your Abortion

5. We become people at **birth**.

- ◆ Luke 1:41a - When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb.

Luke 2:12 - “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Psalm 139:13, 16a - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ... 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body.

Psalm 51:5 - Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

- ◆ God creates people at **conception**.

- ◆ 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



Points to Ponder

1. Read and think about 1 John 1:8-10. How would you apply these words to the issue of abortion?
2. If everything in the universe was created by and, therefore, belongs to God, what questions should Christians ask that non-Christians might not consider when addressing an issue like abortion?
3. Evaluate: A good church should be a place where abortion is talked about openly.

Homework For Next Week: Acts 2:42-47