



# Abortion in America PART 1

Christians must know what the Scriptures say about protecting the unborn, and what the Scriptures say about repentance & forgiveness for those who have participated in abortion.

## beourguest

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## today'steaching

### What the Scriptures Say about the Unborn

The Bible and biology are NOT in disagreement.

- **Biologists recognize that life begins at conception in the womb.**
- **The Bible recognizes human life in the womb.**

### Humans - Made in the Image of God

#### Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

So **God created mankind in His own image**, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.

Christians need to be those who treat all people with that kind of **VALUE** (the smallest baby in the womb to the oldest person on the planet). Don't just **SAY IT** with our lips, **SHOW IT** with our lives.

### Rebooting Humanity & Human Value

#### Genesis 9:5a-6 (NIV)

And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. "Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for **in the image of God has God made mankind.**"

Those who are guilty of harming other humans are held accountable by God by human governing leaders.

### Protecting the Unborn

#### Exodus 21:22-25 (NIV)

If people are fighting and **hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely** but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But **if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life**, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

If you harm a human being (mother or child), made in the image of God, then justice should be served. A full grown man who causes the death of the baby in the womb, would be killed!

❓ What would God say to those who support the killing of innocent human beings inside their mothers' wombs?

## God's Work in the Womb

### Psalm 139:13-14 (CSB)

For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.

## What's In the Womb?

### Luke 1:41-44 (NIV)

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, **the baby** [*bréphos*] **leaped in her womb**, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, **the baby** [*bréphos*] **in my womb leaped for joy**.

The Greek term translated as **baby** (*bréphos*) is used for the child **in the womb** as well as infants or small children.<sup>1</sup> That's the same term that is later used when Jesus is born.

**Luke 2:12** (NIV) This will be a sign to you: You will find a **baby** [*bréphos*] wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

**Luke 2:16** (NIV) So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the **baby** [*bréphos*], who was lying in the manger.

• The New Testament writers recognized the *BEING* in the womb was a *HUMAN BEING*. What other kind of being could it be?

🔄 Changing the terms to "fetus" (Latin for *BABY*) doesn't change the truth. It's a *BABY* in the womb & a *BABY* outside of the womb.

🔍 That abortion kills a small human is easy to dismiss & dilute *UNTIL YOU SEE IT*.

❓ Why are we allowing *SMOKE SCREENS* like pointing to pregnancies due to molestation or rape (less than 2% of abortions) allow the other 98+% of abortions to be legal? Who will stand up for these unborn human beings!?

**If YOU - men or woman - have participated in an abortion - you CAN be FORGIVEN.** Abortion is the taking of an innocent human life, but those who recognize this truth, admit this sin before God, turn from it and turn to Jesus - CAN BE FORGIVEN!

✗ **Sin offers a short term fulfillment that leaves a lifetime of regret.** That was true for King David - forgiven for his adultery and murder of Uriah - yet dealing with the consequences of his sin (the child born to Bathsheba died within days and David's own son turned against him).

## What the Scriptures Say about Repentance & Forgiveness

### Psalm 51:1-4 (NET)

**Have mercy on me, O God**, because of Your loyal love! Because of Your great compassion, wipe away my rebellious acts! **Wash away my wrongdoing!** Cleanse me of my sin! For I am aware of my rebellious acts; I am forever conscious of my sin. **Against You—You above all—I have sinned;** I have done what is evil in Your sight. So you are just when You confront me; You are right when You condemn me.

Could David be any more repentant with his words? David doesn't deny his sin against Bathsheba nor Uriah, but David recognized the ultimate impact of his sin against God. David is an adulterer and a murderer and he can't shake the shame of his sin before God.

### Psalm 51:5-9 (NET)

Look, I was guilty of sin from birth, a sinner the moment my mother conceived me. Look, You desire integrity in the inner man; You want me to possess wisdom. Sprinkle me with water and I will be pure; **wash me** and I will be whiter than snow. Grant me the ultimate joy of being forgiven! May the bones you crushed rejoice! Hide Your face from my sins! **Wipe away all my guilt!**

**Sinful from the time my mother conceived me** is *hyperbole* - an exaggeration to make the point that David knows that he has sinned throughout his life. *Is there any hope after all the sins he has committed against God? YES!* God can make Him **pure, whiter than snow**. God can **wipe away all** our **guilt** and never bring it up again!

### Psalm 51:10-13 (NET)

**Create for me a pure heart**, O God! Renew a resolute spirit within me! Do not reject me! Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me! Let me again experience the joy of your deliverance! Sustain me by giving me the desire to obey! **Then I will teach rebels your merciful ways**, and sinner will turn to you.

That's what YOU and I have the privilege to do - to lead and plead with other **sinner** to **turn to God**.

<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 183.

**Psalm 51:14-17** (NET) **Rescue me** from the guilt of murder, O God, the God who delivers me! Then my tongue will shout for joy because of Your deliverance. O Lord, give me the words! Then my mouth will praise you. Certainly you do not want a sacrifice, or else I would offer it; You do not desire a burnt sacrifice. **The sacrifices God desires are a humble spirit**— O God, a humble and repentant heart You will not reject.

David asks God to forgive him **from the guilt of murder**. He asks God to forgive him for murdering another human being, and God does. *HOW?* David is **humble & repentant** before God.

### **Forgiveness in Jesus!**

**1 Peter 2:24-25** (NIV) "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by His wounds you have been healed." For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Those who turn from their sin and turn to Jesus are *FULLY FORGIVEN* because Jesus **bore our sins!** And those who are forgiven should be GRATEFUL to walk away from **sins** and **live for righteousness**.

### **4 Ways to STEP UP & MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**

1. **GIVE** to Fellowship OR give directly to Women's Pregnancy Center. Our church gives \$2,500 a year to this worthy cause, while many individuals from our church give more.
  - **The Churches in our association collected over \$7,000 in baby bottles for the Pregnancy Center!!**
2. **SERVE** valuable people (the unborn to the most elderly)! **SHOW** people God's love, by treating them with value!
  - Ask **Jenny Starling** (850-973-6970) how you can serve with the Women's Pregnancy Center.
3. **SPEAK** against abortion. Prepare to speak truth in our mixed up world with graciousness & truth.
4. **VOTE** your values. Remove representatives who support abortion and replace them with representatives who support LIFE from the womb to the tomb. **STOP VOTING** for people who support abortion - the **MURDER** of innocent humans.
5. **PRAY** that our Supreme Court and other governing leaders will do the **RIGHT** thing and outlaw abortion! Pray for God to use us to share the truth about with wickedness of abortion and the hope of forgiveness in Jesus.

## **heretoserveyou**

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (850-464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

## **discussionquestions**

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged/encouraged you most from today's teaching? Explain why.
2. Why do people need to see PICTURES of abortion compared to just hearing "pro-life" vs "pro-choice"? How does seeing a picture cut through the claims of "It's just a clump of cells"?
3. **Read Exodus 21:22-25**. What does this passage say about God's view of a baby in the womb? Based on this passage, what do you think God would say to those who support the killing of innocent human beings in the womb?
4. **Read Genesis 9:5-6**. What would you say to the person who asks, "How can you say abortion is wrong while also supporting capital punishment? Isn't that hypocritical?"
5. Read **Luke 1:41-44; 2:12, 16**. Why is it significant that the New Testament writing used the same word [*bréphos*] for the unborn baby in the womb as the baby who has been born?
6. **Read Ps 51:1-17**. While reading this pause to consider the depth of what David is writing and share what challenges or encourages you from this. If David can be forgiven for adultery and murder, is there anything God can't forgive? How can WE use our stories to help others see and experience God's forgiveness? If you're willing, share something God has forgiven you for and how you might leverage your experience to point them to turn from sin and turn to Jesus.
7. **Read 1 Peter 2:24-25**. What hope do Christians have that we NEED to share with others?
8. Take some time to PRAY for the Supreme Court and to pray for lost friends who need Jesus.