

No. 6: Considering the Command We Think We Keep, 3

“Unborn Lives Matter”

Sunday Evening Bible Study

January 22, 2017

Review

1. **All Lives Matter:** All human beings are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26,27). The 6th commandment negatively condemns the violent act of murdering a human being *and* the corruption of the human heart that conceives and carries out the homicide (Ex. 20:13; Gen. 4:1-13; Jas. 4:1,2; Mt. 5:21,22).
2. **Black Lives Matter:** Because all lives matter, black lives matter. No one who knows and loves the Bible can justify racism: Gen. 1:27; Gen. 5:1-3; Acts 10:11; 17:26; Eph. 2:14-16; Nu. 12:1). Because racism nurtures the corruption of heart that leads to murder (anger, insults, envy, hatred, division) and diminishes the value of human life, racism is a violation of the sixth commandment (1 John 3:15). Because of the historic and present systemic racism suffered by African-Americans, it is appropriate to emphasize to our culture that black lives matter too.

Key Principles

1. The 6th commandment (as all of the ten commandments) has a negative and positive aspect. It commands us to do *nothing* to harm our neighbor's life and it commands us to do *something* to guard our neighbor's life. (Ex. 21:29; Lk.10:3)
2. Those who have greater power have greater responsibility to protect those who have lesser power (Lk.12:48). In general, white Americans have possessed greater power than black Americans. Adult human beings have greater power over unborn human beings.
3. Failure to acknowledge the harm that others experience and failure to do something protect them from harm is a violation of the 6th commandment.

Unborn Lives Matter

1. The witness of Scripture: A pro-choice Christian is an oxymoron. Ps. 139:14-16; Lk. 1:41,44;2:12,16
2. The place of doubt: When does human life begin? If the beating heart in the womb is not human, what is it? If it is not life, why must you kill it? The benefit of doubt goes to life.

Three Motives Behind Abortion

1. Sex: Escaping consequences of moral rebellion for the love of pleasure (Titus 1:11,12; 1 Cor. 7:2).
2. Money: Evading the cost of raising a child for the love of money (1Tim. 6:10).
3. Power: Embracing the ticket to the political elite for the love of power (1 Th. 2:4; Pr. 29:25).

Seven Logical Fallacies That Ease The Conscience:

1. *Contradiction:* “It is a baby for you, but not for me.” The label, “pro-choice” sounds and assumes a postmodern tenet that truth is not absolute, but relative, and that the individual creates his own reality. But the law of non-contradiction says “A cannot be non-A.” Applied here: a baby can't be a non-baby. It is either a baby or it is not a baby.
2. *Unwarranted Premise:* “I don't feel bad about it.” The unwarranted premise is that if I don't feel bad, it's good. The easy response to that is that Hitler felt very good about killing 6 million Jews. This is an emotional argument.
3. *Appeal to majority (argumentum ad populum):* “The majority is pro-choice.” For the Christian, morality must not be determined by majority. History shows that the majority is often and tragically wrong. Currently:
56% of US adults believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases.

41% of US adults believe abortion should be illegal.
53% of US millennials believe abortion should be illegal.
49% of US adults believe abortion is morally wrong.
75% of US white evangelical protestants believe abortion is morally wrong.
70% of Democrats believe abortion should be legal
38% of Republicans believe abortion should be legal.

4. *Appeal to Authority*: “The Supreme Court says it is legal.” The assumption here is that if it is legal, it must be moral. But it is possible for an act to be legal and immoral.
5. *Two Wrongs Make A Right*: “Pro-lifers murder abortion doctors” or, “Cultural conservatives care more about babies before they are born than after they are born.” But the your opponent’s wrong does not justify your wrong. This is also a form of ad hominem argument, personally attacking your opponent instead of attacking his argument.
6. *Appeal to force (argumentum ad baculum)*: “I have decided this is best for everyone, including the baby.” A form of the might-makes-right fallacy in that the mother is “right” because she can exercise superior force over an unborn baby.
7. *False Dilemma*: “Illegitimacy puts too much burden on our economy so let’s eliminate the burden.” While it’s true illegitimacy is costly to taxpayers, the excluded middle (alternative solutions) exist.
 - 7.1 The burden on our economy: Households headed by single mothers are inviable economic units.
 - 40% of all American babies are born to unwed mothers
 - 75% of African-American babies are born to unwed mothers.
 - 57% of unwed mothers do not have a high school diploma.
 - 70% of women making less than \$10k a year will have a baby out of wedlock.
 - 48% of births in America are covered by Medicaid.
 - 60% of children living only with their mother are at or below the poverty line.
 - Federal expenditures due to “father absence:” \$99 billion a year.
 - Overall cost to economy due to “father absence:” \$500 billion a year (state and local programs, lower education levels, lower earnings over lifetime, propensity to crime, lower quality of health in adulthood, etc.).
 - Planned Parenthood, which performs 324,000 abortions a year, collects \$60,000 an hour, every hour of every day, from taxpayers. 12% of their clients receive abortions. One third of all abortions in America are provided by Planned Parenthood.
 - 7.2 The suppressed alternatives: *Abstinence* prevents unwanted pregnancies. Adoption rescues an unwanted child. *Marriage* drops the probability that a child will be poor by 82% (71% of poor families are headed by single parents).

Our Obedience to the Sixth Commandment requires us to:

1. Obey Biblical instructions on sex, the act through which God creates human life.
2. Refuse to abort a baby, or to support, encourage, or finance anyone else to abort a baby.
3. Protest abortion by speaking up for the unborn who cannot speak for themselves.
4. Personally get involved in adoption by: 1) adopting a child; 2) financially supporting those who adopt 3) praying for those who adopt. Contact: Justin Barnes, Chosen Children-Orphan Care Ministry of FBC, jesswbarnes@gmail.com.
5. Personally get involved in ministry to women experiencing crisis pregnancy: Contact: Trevor Butcher, Board Member, Sav-A-Life Pregnancy Resource Center, trevor@insuredbythebutcher.com.