

## Life Is Important To Me-God

Since this month is Sanctity of Life month and the Right to Life March is (was going to be but has since been postponed) this Sunday, I wanted to take a quick detour from the series and talk about sanctity of life. We will discuss abortion and the arguments from both sides, Pro-Life and Pro-Choice. However, I mostly want you to see how God views life, of all ages and levels of development.

What have you heard? What do you know? (Open discussion)

Is abortion ever okay? (Open discussion)

Common justifications for abortion:

1. When the mother's life or health is at risk
  - a. I want to be clear that a decision regarding possible death is significantly different than risk of harm alone. In the case of harm, I believe the child should always be given priority. The Bible makes no distinction between the value of life inside or outside the womb. All life is valued by God. However, any faced with this decision should be met with compassion and support. It would be an excruciating decision to make. Ultimately, you are choosing the life of your child or yourself or in some cases, neither. The Bible does not explicitly answer this dilemma so we are left to make the best decision we can based on prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Although this argument is used by many Pro-Choice proponents, the percentage of situations that actually call for a choice between a mother's life and a child's is not high enough to based an entire legislative platform on.
2. In cases of rape and/or incest
  - a. Again, as unsensitive as it may sound, the Bible does not determine value of life based on the circumstances under which it was conceived. Both rape and incest are recorded in the Bible. In early times, incest was not taboo but necessary for procreation (although parent to child relations were never condoned). Rape and in some cases combined with incest is not condoned in scripture. However, nor was the abortion or murder of the resulting child ever suggested or condoned. I can't help but go back to the core of the issue and that is value of life, all life. God places ultimate value on life regardless of the circumstances around it. This argument is also used by Pro-Choice proponents but accounts for about 0.006% of reported abortion reasons. Again, not a strong foundation for legislative platforms.

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3. If abortion is outlawed, women will find illegal and dangerous ways to do it anyway, resulting in more deaths
  - a. While women may indeed find illegal and “unsafe” methods, an examination of the history of abortion would show that more mothers have died or experienced significant physical/mental harm while abortion is legal than while it was illegal. Again, this logic makes no sense. Apply the same logic to murder or theft and it does not hold up. “Let me allow this because they are just going to do it anyway.”

All this being said, the overwhelming majority of abortions are voluntary and are not a result of physical risk to the mother. These go-to arguments simply do not hold up.

I want you to understand two things the Bible teaches us about life. The second is kind of an extension of the first.

First, All Human Life Is Sacred.

I say “human” because we are not discussing animal rights and such, this is a topic for another time and place. Today, we are talking about humans, mankind, the human race. God has made it very clear in His Word and by His actions that human life is of the utmost importance to Him.

To help us establish this, I want to ask a question: How is value determined? There are three things we primarily look at to determine value.

1. The creator or designer
  - a. Louis Vuitton purses are valuable because he made/designed them. You can get a similar version at Walmart or Target that may carry more or last longer but Louis didn’t make it. Similarly, we have value because God made us in His image.
    - i. Genesis 1:27
2. Its level of protection
  - a. You leave an old, beat up car out in the weather. You leave a restored precious antique in the garage, possibly under a cover. Costume jewelry stays on your dresser. Diamonds go in a safe. God places so much importance on life that He goes to great lengths to protect it.
    - i. Genesis 9:6
    - ii. Exodus 21:22-25
3. Its cost
  - a. If I told you, sight unseen, I would give you a car that cost me \$85,000 or a car that cost me \$8500, which would you choose? Under normal circumstances, the value of something is tied directly to its cost. God paid an unimaginable cost for our life, His Son.
    - i. 1 Corinthians 6:20

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### ii. Mark 10:45

Second, as an extension of all life being sacred, scripture gives the same value to an unborn child as all other human life.

But what about a woman's right to make decisions about her own body?

I think the answer to this question will support the original statement

For this answer we need to answer two other questions:

1. When does a life become a life?
  - a. Sometime before the child is born
    - i. Psalm 139:13-16
    - ii. Jeremiah 1:5
    - iii. Galatians 1:15
  - b. At conception
    - i. Psalm 51:5
    - ii. Matthew 1:20
2. Is a woman's body hers to do with as she pleases?
  - a. Why is prostitution illegal if a woman has a right to do what she wants with her body?
  - b. From a Christian standpoint, your body is not your own, it is God's
    - i. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
    - ii. Psalm 100:3
    - iii. Mark 10:45

I hope we can better understand how our Creator views His most precious creation, the only one created in His own image.

But abortion hasn't and probably won't affect me personally, why get involved? I hope you are right but here is what God has to say about that as well.

- Proverbs 24:11-12
- James 4:17

Your involvement may look different than the next persons but just know that God has commanded us to stand up for those who can't.