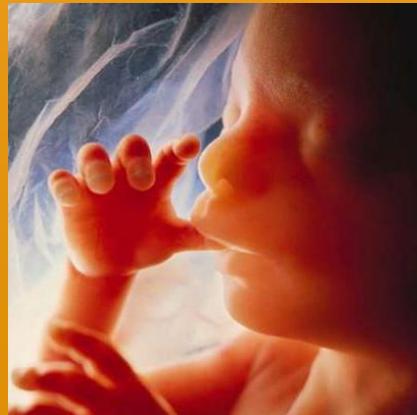




# Christian Ethics & Abortion



# Christian Ethics & Abortion

- Introduction & Statistics
- Reasons Why It Happens
- The Effects of Abortion
- What Does the Bible Say About It?



# Introduction & Statistics

- **What is abortion?**

The medical definition of 'abortion' is the expulsion or removal of a fetus from the uterus.

Abortion can be spontaneous, or it may be induced. The former is more commonly referred to as 'miscarriage'

Medically induced abortion is also referred to as 'termination of pregnancy'.

# Introduction & Statistics

- **Abortion rates in Australia**

The exact number of abortions performed in Australia each year is not known but one estimate published in 2005 suggested that the figure is around 70,000 to 80,000. This is partly because the procedure is still potentially illegal in some states and this affects what data is collected.

# Reasons Why Abortions Happen

- Family Planning (i.e. due to economic or social hardships)
- As a way to conceal sin
- As a way to show mercy to an abnormal foetus
- Due to the belief that it's "The woman's right to choose"



# The Effects Of Abortion

- Spiritual effects
  - Moral guilt (due to the fact that a crime has been committed)
  - Psychological guilt (feelings of guilt)
  - Affects the person's relationship with God

# The Effects Of Abortion

- Physical Effects

Medical complications associated with legal abortion may occur at the time of abortion (immediate), within 30 days following (delayed), or at some later time (late).

# The Effects Of Abortion

- Physical Effects (continued...)

Some of these complications may include:

- Increased rate of miscarriage in the future
- Increased rate of labour complication
- Increased rate of delivery complication
- Increased chance of having a premature baby
- Increased risk of infertility
- Damage to reproductive organs

# The Effects Of Abortion

- Emotional Effects

“Pregnancies that end in abortion or miscarriage are, at the least, *upsetting* and sometimes *traumatic* to the pregnant woman”

“emotional *stress* and *pain*... surround the entire abortion procedure”

“eight of 21 women who had obtained a past abortion were found to be clinically *depressed*”

# The Effects Of Abortion

- Emotional Effects (continued...)
  - 81% reported a pre-occupation with the abortion experience
  - 73% reported flashbacks of the abortion experience
  - 69% reported feelings of “craziness” after the experience
  - 54% recalled nightmares related to the abortion

# The Effects Of Abortion

- Societal Effects

Abortion carries many effects that change and irreparably harm societies and cultures around the world.

- Example: in some countries where males are highly prized, abortion gives the opportunity to parents to selectively abort female babies

# The Effects Of Abortion

- Societal Effects

Abortion also changes society's attitude toward the handicapped, the terminally ill and the elderly.

Abortion "on demand" has contributed to a society in which "we educate a generation of young people to 'abort' their unwanted, handicapped, inconvenient and non-productive children so that their own quality of life will not be impaired or interrupted."

# What Is The Bible's Perspective of Abortion?

- The biblical writers don't write the specific words "Life begins at conception", but they consistently refer to conception as the starting point of a person's life
- God is active in the event of conception itself:
  - Ruth 4:13 "So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son."
  - There are many other such events in the bible which confirms that it is more than just a biological phenomenon.
  - The start of human life is clearly a special occurrence in which God takes part.

# What Is The Bible's Perspective of Abortion?

- What value does the Bible place on human life once it has been conceived?
  - That the foetus is in the image of God:  
As Adam & Eve were created in the image of God, so every human creation thereafter is also created in His image

# What Is The Bible's Perspective of Abortion?

- What value does the Bible place on human life once it has been conceived?
  - God relates to the foetus in several intimate ways:
    - 1) Psalm 139:13-16 “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.  
I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.  
My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret,  
*And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.”

# What Is The Bible's Perspective of Abortion?

- What value does the Bible place on human life once it has been conceived?
  - God relates to the foetus in several intimate ways:

## 2) Continuity with life after birth

The word in the Bible used for life before birth and after birth is the same. The foetus' value (life) is the same prior to and after birth.

# What Is The Bible's Perspective of Abortion?

- What value does the Bible place on human life once it has been conceived?
  - Their Untimely Death

In the Bible, murders of the unborn were viewed as a dreadful curse for the people

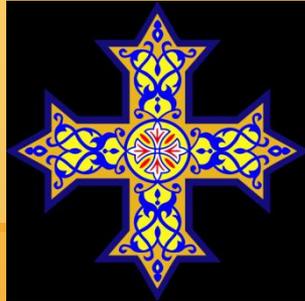
2 Kings 8:12, Amos 1:13, Hosea 13:16

# What Is The Bible's Perspective of Abortion?

- When we look at all these things, it is clear that it's quite a responsibility to make a decision about aborting one's own child.
- Conversely, the decision to care for the "precious ones" of the womb is in character with the purposes and desires of God.



**Questions?**



Glory be to God forever, Amen.