

Courageous Christianity: Challenging Conversations on Abortion, part 2

Genesis 1:26-28

Book recommendations and acknowledgement:

Jimenez, Jason. "Challenging Conversations: A Practical Guide to Discuss Controversial Topics in the Church." Baker Books, 2020.

Lutzer, Erwin W. "We Will Not Be Silenced: Responding Courageously to Our Culture's Assault on Christianity." Harvest House Publishers, 2020.

Trueman, Carl R. "The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution." Crossway, 2020.

Proverbs 31:8 - Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

Proverbs 31:9 - Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Abortion statistics:

- 24% of U.S. women have an abortion by age 45! (Guttmacher Institute)
- 18% of pregnancies in the U.S. in 2017 ended in abortion! (Guttmacher Institute)
- In 2018, 31% of pregnancies in New York City ended in abortion (CDC)
- Only 1.5% of abortions are due to rape or incest

I. How we got here: A history of *Roe v. Wade* and legalized abortion

A biblical, Christian view is that abortion is a moral issue.

II. What we believe: A case for life

Genesis 1:26-28 - And God said, Let us make man **in our image, after our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (27) So God created man **in his own image, in the image of God created he him**; male and female created he them. (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Premise #1: All human beings have intrinsic value as God's image-bearers

- Humans were/are created in the image and likeness of God (Imago Dei)

Genesis 5:1-3 - This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, **in the likeness of God** made he him; (2) Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. (3) And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son **in his own likeness**, and **after his image**; and called his name Seth:

- Humans were/are created distinct from and above the rest of creation including the animals

Genesis 2:7 - And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

- Humans were/are created to rule over and have dominion over the animals and God's world

Genesis 1:26 - And God said...**let them have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28 - And God blessed them, and God said unto them...**have dominion over** the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

- Humans were/are created to multiply and fill the earth

Genesis 1:28 - And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:**

What does this mean and why is this important? (i.e. a pen)

1. Intrinsic value is not based on what humans can do, how they perform, or some characteristic they have which might come and go over a lifetime.
2. Humans have value simply for being who they are, a person created in the image of God.
3. If human value is based on traits like self-awareness or physical development, we risk losing human equality
4. Every human being is valuable regardless of performance, physical development, function...

Premise #2: The unborn are human beings created in God's image

According to the Bible:

Psalms 139:13-16 - For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me **in my mother's womb**. (14) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. (15) My substance was not hid from thee, when I was **made in secret**, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. (16) Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being **unperfect**; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Jeremiah 1:5 - Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Psalms 22:10 - I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly.

According to science:

The human embryo is a genetically distinct, living human being. The result is a 46 chromosome human life. That is a scientific fact!

Keith Moore (a well-known surgeon), "Each of us started life as a cell called a zygote."

Jerome LeJeune (Nobel-prize winning scientist), "To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion. The human nature of the human being from conception to old age is not a metaphysical contention, it is plain experimental evidence."

Francis Beckwith, "We don't have a potential human being, but a human being with great potential!"

Conclusion: Therefore, the unborn have intrinsic value, worth, and dignity as much as any full grown adult

Is it okay to kill a 6-month old baby just because they are not fully developed and still learning to walk and talk?
Is there a difference morally that makes it okay to kill an embryo but not a newborn?

The unborn child is a living, whole human being from the beginning and is simply developing the capacity to do what adult humans do. All that is needed is time.

In the womb, you or I were no less human than we are now just as a crawling is not any less human than a walking adult.

Proverbs 6:16-17 - These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: (17) A proud look, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood**,

What could be more innocent than a helpless baby in his mother's womb!

III. How to respond: A dilemma for every argument

Some common "pro-choice" arguments:

Argument #1 - *"Women have a right to privacy."*

- This argument assumes the unborn are not human or less human
- We all believe in the right to privacy (it is wrong for a thief to break into your house)
- But home invasion and the personal right to have an abortion are completely different things
- A right to privacy has its limits (child abuse, meth lab, etc)
- Why support the right to privately have an abortion but not allow the right to privately abuse or kill a child?
- Abortion (just as child abuse) is no more right if done privately than publicly
- If science proves the unborn are human, why should a women's "right to privacy" apply to abortion?
- If the unborn are human, shouldn't they have the same protective rights (right to life) under the Constitution?

Argument #2 - *"My body, my choice."*

- Why is the unborn human child part of the mother's body?
- Despite the unborn child living within the mother's body and dependent on the mother for sustenance, they are two separate and distinct living human beings.
- The unborn child and the mother have their own genetic code, sex, individual fingerprints, etc.
- A mother's choice, gender, body, or views don't give her the right to intentionally kill an innocent human life.

Argument #3 - *"Every child a wanted child."*

- This argument also devalues the unborn child to something less than human (premature vs abortion)
- This argument places the value of the unborn child on a mother's whim. However, the value of human life is not based on whether it is wanted.
- Many homeless people are unwanted but it would be wrong to kill them.
- Humans are valuable because they are human
- There is no moral ground for the right of people to arbitrarily choose one life over another.

Argument #4 - *"Don't like abortion? Don't have one."*

- The big problem with this argument is that it confuses personal preference claims with moral ones.
- This argument would not work with any other moral issue (i.e. slavery, murder, etc)
- Why not? Because ALL human beings have intrinsic value!
- The abortionist can't have it both ways in treating slavery or murder as morally wrong (which they are!) but abortion as a personal preference

For some excellent videos giving pro-life responses to common abortionist arguments go to

<https://prolifereplies.liveaction.org/>

Now the question is, are we/you willing to have this challenging conversation?