

*"I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself."*

Mother Teresa (1910-1997)

*"Abortion itself would be worth spending much of our lifetimes to fight against, because it is the killing of human life."*

Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984)

*"Abortion ... always constitutes a grave moral disorder, since it is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being. ... No circumstance, no purpose, no law whatsoever can ever make licit an act which is intrinsically illicit, since it is contrary to the law of God which is written in every human heart, knowable by reason itself, and proclaimed by the Church."*

Pope John Paul II (1920-2005)

*"I believe [abortion] is one of the most serious sins of the modern world in the eyes of God."*

Billy Graham

*"But who, with a clear conscience, can sit back, say little, and do nothing while babies continue to be killed?"*

Charles Swindoll

*"We oppose abortion because we respect the fact that all humans are made in the image of God."*

Charles Colson

*"My God! Forgive us for this wickedness!"*

James Dobson

*"I'm convinced that the matter of abortion facing the American public right now is the greatest wickedness in our nation's history. It makes me almost ashamed to be an American. I'm ashamed of the medical profession, but I'm most deeply ashamed of the church for its failure to scream literally, 'Bloody murder' about abortion."*

R. C. Sproul

*"To attack the human being in the womb and kill him or her is to assault God. God is making the child. God is weaving a unique image of his divine glory with the purpose of imaging forth that glory in the world. Killing the child is an attack on God's glory and is treason against the Ruler of the universe."*

John Piper

*"[I]f you hold to the Bible as ... actually God's word, there are some issues that for me are non-negotiable, like euthanasia and like abortion."*

Rick Warren

*"Abortion is Satan's attempt to kill God in effigy by destroying the little ones created in God's image."*

Randy Alcorn

*"We have sacrificed our children on the altars of hedonism. ... It is incumbent upon Christians to do everything in their power to halt the spread of this enormous evil."*

Hank Hanegraaff

## Does God Forgive Those Who Have Had or Performed Abortions?

Yes!

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

As Franklin Graham says, "[I]f a person is guilty of having an abortion, God will forgive them and will cleanse them, if they're willing to come to him and ask for his forgiveness and receive his son Jesus Christ, by faith, into the heart."

## The Bottom Line for Bible-Believing Christians

Proverbs 24:11 tells us to "rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter." That means acting and speaking out on behalf of our unborn neighbors. And as we so act, we act for Christ Himself: "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

**"As Christian leaders, we must realize that we will be held accountable, both in this life and in eternity, for how we deal with this issue. We must take deliberate and significant measures to stop the killing, to minister to our hurting women, and to make a difference in our community. The desire to be popular and avoid people's disapproval is a common reason for church leaders to hold back both in preaching on abortion and involvement in pro-life efforts. But for every reason we have, we must be ready to answer a question on the last day: 'Was that reason more important than the lives of all those children I created in my image?'"**

— Randy Alcorn



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# A Christian Perspective on Abortion

*On the Christian worldview ... one single human being is worth more than the entire material universe.*

— Dr. William Lane Craig, philosopher and theologian



## How should a Christian think about the practice of abortion?

- We know, as a matter of scientific fact, that abortion kills a living member of the human species.
- The Bible unequivocally teaches that deliberately killing innocent human beings is a serious moral wrong.
- Thus, for Bible-believing Christians, elective abortion is morally indefensible.

## What Does the Bible Say?

### The Sanctity of Human Life

The Bible makes clear that human beings are created in God's own image. Genesis 1:27 states, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Humans, therefore, possess a special worth and dignity. Indeed, the Bible consistently teaches respect and kindness toward other people; according to Jesus in Mark 12:30, "Love your neighbor as yourself" is the second greatest commandment. More specifically, the wrongness of intentionally taking innocent human life is emphasized repeatedly. In Genesis 9:6, God prohibits murder with the justification that mankind bears God's image: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man." Exodus 20:13 (the sixth commandment) simply states, "You shall not murder." Proverbs 6:17 counts "hands that shed innocent blood" as one of the "things the LORD hates." Exodus 23:7 reads, "Do not put an innocent or honest person to death." "Do not murder," Jesus says in Matthew 19:18.

### Loving Our Unborn Neighbor

A number of passages in Scripture affirm that God values the unborn child just as he does all other human beings.

Consider Psalm 139:13-14: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 51:5 says, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful *from the time my mother conceived me*" (emphasis added). The implication here is that a single-celled human zygote is a person with his or her own sinful nature! Job 31:15 asks, "Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?" Isaiah 49:1 states, "Before I was born the LORD called me." In Jeremiah 1:5, God says to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Writers in both the Old and New Testaments use the same word to refer to unborn and already-born children (the Hebrew word *yeled* and the Greek word *brephos*, respectively).

In Exodus 21:22-25, we are told that "if men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and ... 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." Such is the inestimable value of the unborn child in God's eyes!

When Jesus is conceived through the Holy Spirit, Mary is said to be "with child" immediately upon conception (Matthew 1:18). In Luke 1:41-44, an unborn John the Baptist (near the end of his second trimester in the womb) "leaped for joy" in his mother's womb when he entered the presence of Jesus, who was also still in his mother's womb! (Based on the scriptural timeline, it is likely that Jesus was a several-days-old embryo when this happened—the age of human that researchers today are killing in order to harvest stem cells for experimentation.)

Matthew 18:14 calls us to protect even our youngest and most dependent, for "your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost." Psalm 127:3 says that "sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him." Deuteronomy 30:19 tells us to "choose life, so that you and your children may live."

**To kill one's unborn offspring—a defenseless, precious human being made in the likeness of his or her Creator—is to deface the image of God and to destroy a unique gift from Him.** "If I know anything about the character of God," writes R. C. Sproul, "I know that He hates abortion."



a developing unborn child at 24 weeks gestation

### Okay, But ...

**"The Bible never actually mentions abortion."**

The Bible doesn't specifically mention the practice of abortion—or countless other moral wrongs (e.g., violence against a particular ethnic group), for that matter—but the sanctity of human life, including unborn human life, is made perfectly clear. As theologian and scholar William Lane Craig writes, "There was no need for a specific commandment against killing the unborn, just as there was no need for a commandment against killing one's wife; both were implicitly comprised under the single commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill.'"

**"The Church should focus on the Great Commission, not abortion."**

Actually, abortion is very relevant to the Great Commission. As stated in Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission instructs the Church to do two things: to "go and make disciples of all nations" and to teach them to obey God's commands. Those commands tell us to not kill innocent human beings (as abortion does) and to help the weak and vulnerable (such as unborn babies). In other words, pro-life efforts are *part* of the Great Commission!

**"The Church shouldn't get involved in politics."**

Politics (the use of power and government) is fundamentally an ethical enterprise, and God is not neutral when it comes to moral matters. "Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts," Amos 5:15 says. Christians, of all

people, must *always* stand up against great injustices; practices like slavery, genocide, and abortion should never be tolerated. As Proverbs 31:8-9 instructs, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Call it "politics" if you like, but saving babies is simply a matter of *obedience*.

### Christians Sound Off on Abortion

*"Do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant."*

The Didache, second century Christian catechism

*"You shall love your neighbor more than your own life. You shall not slay a child by abortion."*

Epistle of Barnabas, dated between 70 and 131 A.D.

*"We say that women who induce abortions are murderers, and will have to give account of it to God. ... The fetus in the womb is a living being and therefore the object of God's care."*

Athenagoras, defending Christians before Emperor Marcus Aurelius, 177 A.D.

*"For us [Christians], murder is once and for all forbidden; so even the child in the womb, while yet the Mother's blood is still being drawn on to form the human being, it is not lawful for us to destroy. To forbid birth is only quicker murder."*

Tertullian, 197 A.D.

*"Those who give abortifacients for the destruction of a child conceived in the womb are murderers themselves, along with those receiving the poisons."*

Basil the Great (329-379 A.D.)

*"How great, therefore, the wickedness of human nature is! How many girls there are who prevent conception and kill and expel tender fetuses, although procreation is the work of God."*

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

*"The fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being, and it is a most monstrous crime to rob it of the life, which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light."*

John Calvin (1509-1564)

*"The unborn child is from the very first a child. ... It is a man and not a thing, not a mere part of the mother's body. ... Those who live by mercy will always be disposed to practice mercy, especially to a human being which is so dependent on the mercy of others as the unborn child."*

Karl Barth (1886-1968)

*"Destruction of the embryo in the mother's womb is a violation of the right to life which God has bestowed on this nascent life. ... And that is nothing but murder."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor and theologian hung by the Nazis in 1945