



ABORTION ?

IS ABORTION MURDER? NO!

Q. Brother Ebaugh, our 15 year old daughter wants to have an abortion. Her daddy was livid with anger when he found out and he demands that she carry the baby full term. I tend to see things more in favor with my daughter's wishes. I know that you are a Bible teacher. What do you think?

A. You are right. I am a Bible teacher. But what I think does not matter. What the Bible says, does matter a lot.

Q. You know what I meant.

A. Perhaps. But, a lot of people have very strong opinions about abortion which are not based on the Bible. They are based on inflamed feelings and emotions, - not logic and Bible study. Just yesterday I noticed a bumper sticker which said that "Abortion is Murder."

Q. That's what I'm talking about. Is it? My husband says it is. That's why he's so mad about it.

A. You have asked, "Is abortion murder?" As far as the Bible is concerned the answer is - Abortion is not murder. But it is murder in the minds of a lot of emotionally charged people. They have spent millions of dollars for publicity to prove it is. They are trying to pass laws that say abortion is murder. I hope that the laws of our land will be based on Bible patterns, rather than emotion.

Q. Well if it is not murder, you had better tell me why. I need the answer quickly so I can bring peace to our family.

A. Blessed are the peacemakers! Let's see if these Bible patterns will help you. In I Corinthians chapter 15, Paul goes into a long discourse to show that there is a difference between a natural (human) body and a spiritual body. He says that there is a big difference. There is a big difference between the 1. Spirit, 2. Soul and 3. Body. The answer to the abortion question is based on this big difference.

Q. O.K. But does abortion kill the spiritual body?

A. No! Solomon (the wisest man who ever lived) said, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Ecc. 12:7). This tells us that at the death of the body, there is no death of the spirit. There is another very interesting scripture that we should look at. God told Jeremiah, "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee." (Jer. 1:5).

In other words - before there was an embryo, there was a Jeremiah. This is impossible to understand as long as we only relate to the natural animal body.

Q. You are right! I don't understand. How could God know Jeremiah before conception?

From these three examples we see that when the lump of clay received "breath" it received a soul.

A fetus has no animal breath; hence it has no soul. The fetus receives a soul at birth when it receives its first breath.

Q. Does that mean that my own soul will be destroyed if I stop breathing?

A. It sure does.

Last week a nurse phoned me from Indianapolis and said, "Your mother expired at 12:05 AM." I looked the word "expired" up in the dictionary and it said, "expire, to breathe one's last breath: die." For the last two centuries, and longer, both the law and physicians equated life with breath. Now the anti-abortionists are trying to change it: but this time the Bible is on the side of well established tradition.

Q. Now I see! Abortion cannot kill a spirit. There is no soul to kill. So abortion can only remove animal life.

A. That's right. And now we are ready for the second part of the answer to your very complicated question.

God attaches less value to a fetus than to a live baby.

Q. I never heard anything like that before. Where is that idea in the Bible? Where does it say that the value of a fetus is less than the value of a live baby? I thought that God would treat a fetus and a baby the same way!

A. You thought wrong. In giving God's law to Israel, Moses said, "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her (if a bump does not hurt the woman, only the fetus), he shall surely be punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him: and he shall pay as the judges determine. (The husband shall sue the fighter in court.) And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life. Eye for eye. (Exodus 21:22-23).

Theologians agree that the section, life for life, eye for eye, etc., refers to the live baby rather than the mother. They reason that the law about harm to the mother has already been established and the subject of the passage is, harm to the short term but alive baby.

Q. I didn't know that was in the Bible.

A. We all are learning many things. When we stop learning new things we atrophy and die.

Back to the passage. If a fetus is aborted, a judge in a court is to determine the value in money that is to be paid to the family. But God Himself fixed the punishment for killing a live baby. In other words, God judges a fetus to have monetary value, like property, but only a live (though short term) baby has full rights of life for life (because the live baby has a soul - the fetus does not.)

Q. I see. The live baby has more value than a fetus.

A. As far as God is concerned -- immensely more. The law of Moses given in the Old Testament shows that there is a large difference between a fetus and a live born baby.

Q. But Brother Ebaugh, you teach that there is a big difference between the grace brought by Jesus Christ and the law given by Moses. Why are you going back to the law now?

A. Jesus and the Apostles were silent on this issue. While we do not make this law a directive for our lives since Jesus brought the mercy of God to the offender-we can still see the spirit of God's feelings towards the value of a fetus. I agree it would be a tragedy to return to the letter of the law.

Q. O.K. I see your point. Why do people feel so strongly about abortion?

A. They mistakenly attach a religious significance to abortion. They mistakenly believe that the fetus has the same legal rights as does the live baby. They relate to a fetus as though it was a baby. The tragedy is that the Bible teaches exactly opposite to what most religious leaders teach about abortion.

But we can easily see why emotions have run wild in this issue. After all - a fetus looks exactly like a baby. Most people have already made up their minds based on how they feel rather than on a good study of the different forms of life as described in the Bible. They do not realize that the fetus has no soul.

Q. But is it right to make laws based on emotion rather than logic or what God said in the Bible?

A. Jesus told us that God is spirit. God is not mind (soul); neither is He a flesh body (sarx). Jeremiah was spirit before he took the form of an embryo. The spirit pre-exists the body and in the case of death, the spirit returns to God who sent it in the first place. In other words, you (all of us) are a spirit, you have a soul and you live in the body. As spirit, you came from God. Remember Jesus said, "Ye are Gods, and the scripture cannot be broken." (John 10:34-35). Well, I've looked you over and you do not look like a God (no offense).

Q. O.K. You win. I don't feel like a God either. But if Jesus said it, He must have meant it. What did He mean?

A. You are divine in spirit (heart). God is spirit. Jesus came to redeem your spirit. That's why He wants to enter your heart. In the Bible the heart, bowels and torso organs are the dwelling place of the eternal part of man (woman): the spirit.

Q. Now I remember. All that stuff is in your book 1,2,3, THE THIRD SALVATION. But how does that apply to abortion?

A. I'm not quite finished with the foundation but I'll answer your question now, anyway. No one can ever kill any spirit. Ecclesiastes said that the spirit returns to God who gave it in the first place. Also Jesus Christ re-emphasized the point when He said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matt. 10:28). What part of man is free from the torment of the devil?

Q. What part? Oh, the spirit was not mentioned. Only the soul and body can suffer destruction.

A. Right! There is no Bible evidence that any spirit has ever been destroyed.

Q. Are you saying that abortion cannot kill the spirit of man?

A. The Bible said it - not I. Peter even said, "Jesus was quickened (made alive) by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which were sometime disobedient." (I Peter 3:18-19). This tells us that at the time of the cross experience of Jesus, the spirit of Christ descended into prison (Apostles Creed says hell) and preached to Old Testament spirits.

Those Old Testament characters had lost their bodies and souls centuries and millenniums before - but the spirits were still alive. That is because bodies and souls can be annihilated but spirits can not.

Q. O.K. I'm convinced. The spirit can't be murdered. The spirit of man is eternal. It's around in heaven before conception and it returns to God if the embryo dies. But what about the soul? I'll bet I've got you on that one. Can you kill a soul?

A. Sure you can kill a soul. Remember Jesus said to fear him who can destroy both soul and body (not spirit). At death, the soul and body are destroyed - not spirit.

The Bible has many examples showing the differences of what happens to the soul and spirit at death. The deaths of both Stephen and Jesus are cases in point.

Q. It sounds complicated. What about Stephen? Did he give up his soul when he died?

A. No. He said, "Lord Jesus receive my spirit." (Acts 7:59).

Q. I see. The spirit was going back to heaven - so that is why he asked Jesus to receive the spirit - not the soul or body. Is that what Jesus meant on the cross?

A. Right. Jesus said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." Stephen and Jesus recognized that their spirits were going to return to God.

Q. I think I see the pattern. Does abortion destroy the soul of the baby?

A. No, if by "baby" you mean fetus. You see the fetus has no soul. Technically, a live born baby does have a soul - the fetus does not. Remember, "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." (Gen. 2:7). The dust body did not have a soul until it had breath.

Young's Concordance defines the Hebrew word NEPHESH, translated soul, "a BREATHING creature."

It also translates the Greek word PSUCHE (translated soul), PSUCHE, BREATH."

A. That is up to the legislature and courts to decide, not me. I can tell you what the Bible says about it - but I don't think that very many people really care.

Q. Does that mean that abortion isn't so bad? If abortion is not murder, then is it right or wrong to have one?

A. That's too complicated. It's too personal. It is obvious that something went wrong if abortion is being considered. I have never advised anyone to have an abortion and I have never condemned anyone for having one. But, when people say that abortion is murder, I feel that they should be corrected and told that they are wrong as far as the Bible is concerned.

I have four children and four grandchildren and I love every one of them. I have never counseled anyone to have an abortion. But, I have never brought condemnation to anyone who has had one.

Q. You have given me the answer to a very perplexing problem. Can I do something for you?

A. Yes, Pray for this ministry because we will lose a lot of support after this message is published.

The following books and tapes will answer a lot of questions. They show the difference between SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY. The Bible will not be confusing after this difference is noticed. Perhaps you need healing in one or another realm. Find out.

THE THIRD SALVATION. You are a spirit. You have a soul and you live in a body. Find out about the 3rd step! Basic to our lessons.

FREE TO LIVE. Is God leading you to deeper truth than your present religious environment teaches? Don't know whether to stay or go?

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE. Responsible for healing many marriages. Jesus Christ and the Bible give workable solutions to the problems of marriage, separation, divorce and remarriage. Avoid trouble. No condemnation.

SPIRIT, SOUL & BODY. Distinction between spirit and soul. Helps you understand yourself and other people too. God's plans for each.

KINDS OF LOVE. Eros, storgos, phileo, agape. Different kinds of love.

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE. Healed marriages. Believe the Bible or tradition? Removes condemnation. God gives another chance.