

# **Rights Start in the Womb**

Dr. Paul Ferguson

Abortion is one of the greatest tragedies of our time. The most dangerous place in the world today for a child is inside a mother's womb! When a woman says she has a right to do what she wants with her own body, we must ask: Where did you get that right? All rights of humanity are rooted in the rights bestowed by the Creator, according to the Bible, the only objective source of authority. God is against abortion, the Church has always been against it, and we must also be against it.

Consider the following biblical principles of life.

### **1. God is Sovereign**

God is the Creator, and he alone has the sovereign right to give and take away life (compare Acts 17:28, Daniel 5:23, Job 1:21, Ecclesiastes 3:2, 11). To take a life is to strike a blow against God's sovereignty.

### **2. Children are God's Gifts**

The giving of a child (Genesis 25:21; Ruth 4:13) is God's sovereign gift. He personally creates every life, "Behold, all souls are mine" (Ezekiel 18:4). No baby is a mistake, it is a product of divine purpose.

### **3. God Made us in His Image**

Every child is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27), which means that every human has the capability of

rational thought, personality, and moral responsibility. Therefore, each child has great theological significance. To take the life of another human being is to violate that unique image.

#### **4. Unborn Children are Persons**

The unborn child is not a “thing” but a person. The Bible never refers to the unborn child as a “foetus” or an “embryo” but a person. To be pregnant is to be “with child,” not with that which might become a child. The reality of personhood is never measured in the Bible by age, stage of development, or mental, physical, or social skills.

In Luke 1:41 we read of the unborn “babe” (John) being involved in spiritual worship. Spirit filled worship by the babe in the womb shows that the unborn child has personality.

Interestingly, the word translated “babe” is the Greek word *brephos*, which is used in Luke 18:15 and 1 Peter 2:2 for a living baby that has been born.

## **5. Life Begins at Conception**

Life begins in the womb from conception. God cares for the child in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16). The Psalmist also described the person in the womb, as not something that might become David, but someone who was David! (See also Job 10:8-12, Isaiah 49:1-5, Jeremiah 1:4-5, Luke 1:40-44, Galatians 1:15). God elected Jacob over his twin Esau while in the womb (Romans 9:11) and the Holy Spirit records the conflict of these two persons in the womb before birth (Genesis 25:22).

## **6. Murder is Sin**

The taking of the life of a human by another human is clearly limited in Scripture to very specific circumstances, e.g. warfare, capital punishment, self-defence etc. Biblical theologians recognise that abortion is murder i.e. unjustified killing of human life. This is a transgression of the sixth commandment, “thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13). The penal code for killing the unborn child in the womb in ancient Israel reflects God’s view of the sin of abortion (Exodus 21:22-23).

The devil has a murderous spirit and a murderous agenda. “He was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44). Killing children has always been part of pagan religions, and has never been part of biblical Christianity. God has a special care for children (compare Matthew 18:10 and 19:14).

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## **Conclusion**

Abortion is the immoral killing of the defenceless and the innocent in the womb. It is designed to take life and not merely prevent life from occurring. God hates the shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6:16), and the rights of a baby start in the womb.