



THE CHRISTIAN AND ABORTION

BY: PASTOR MATT TREWHELLA

Christianity has always viewed the preborn as children, human beings, made in the image of God.

And Christianity has always viewed abortion as murder. Yet we live in the midst of a Christianity where many Christians cannot bring themselves to call abortion “murder.”

The churchman, Basil, wrote in 359 AD, “She who has intentionally destroyed [the fetus] is subject to the penalty corresponding to a homicide.”

Abortion corresponds to a homicide because the preborn are made in the image of God. The *imago Dei*. Right in the beginning Genesis 1:26 states-

“Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness.”

We are *different* than the animals. Man is the crown of God’s creation. Christ died to redeem men unto the Father.

Christianity has always declared the humanity of the preborn child – and has always declared abortion to be murder.

While defending the faith against the accusation that we sacrifice people, the churchman Tertullian wrote in 190 AD,

“In our case, murder being once for all forbidden, we may not destroy even the fetus in the womb.”

He also wrote in 197 AD: “*The law of God, indeed, punishes with due penalties the man who shall cause abortion [Ex. 21:22–24].*”

Another early churchman, Athenagorus, wrote in 170 AD - “We say that women who induce abortions are murderers, and will have to give account of it to God.”

The churchman, John Chrysostum, wrote in 401 AD, “Why then dost thou abuse the gift of God, and *fight with His laws*, and follow after what is a curse as if a blessing, and make the chamber of procreation a chamber for murder, and arm the woman that was given for childbearing unto slaughter?”

And all Christians – and all Christian bodies - declared the humanity of the preborn child and declared abortion to be murder until about 60 years ago.

ALL Christians and Christian bodies condemned abortion as murder. And this truth must be restored in and proclaimed through the pulpits, and into the halls of the legislature.

It wasn’t until 1930 that the first Christian body in the history of the world decided to embrace the use of birth control. And it was just 35 years later that the first Christians and Christian bodies (including Evangelicals) in the history of the world embraced abortion and no longer condemned it for the murder it is.

Christians must take action against the evil of abortion.

Abortion provides opportunity for us to *demonstrate our obedience* to the Lord. “Love your neighbor as yourself”. This includes your preborn neighbor. True love involves action as the parable of the Good Samaritan demonstrates. Lk. 10:25-37

And who is my neighbor? The preborn child is your neighbor. He and she are in need.

First let me state: *you cannot truly love your neighbor unless you love God.* The love you demonstrate outwardly towards your neighbor reveals the love for God in your heart.

We are His ambassadors. We make known His Law, Word and Gospel. True love states what is true. True love for both God and neighbor demands that we state what is true.

True love is not contrary to the law of God. It is the fulfillment of the law of God (Romans 13:8-10). Love is not an emotion. (this is what the world proffers as love – nothing but humanistic, sentimental hogwash). Love is an action.

To know how to love your neighbor therefore – one needs to read the law and Word of God. Our love for God is *demonstrated* in our love for our neighbor – which is seen in how we govern our lives.

Love for God is to obey His commandments. Love for our neighbor is to treat them according to God’s law and Word.

The preborn are being murdered. And we must pray. But we must do more than pray. We must act. As C.T. Studd, the well-known missionary to Africa once wrote:

“We Christians too often substitute prayer for playing the game. Prayer is good; but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is nothing but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism.”

God hates the shedding of innocent blood – the Scripture says it that plainly in Proverbs 6:16+17.

Why do we show the signs – the large photographs of the murdered preborn? Yes, to inform people that abortion is truly the brutal murder of an actual person. We believe, since our nation has made the brutal killing of these little ones public policy – then their suffering should be publicly displayed.

Again - we are different than the animals. Man is the crown of God’s creation. Christ died to redeem men unto the Father.

So, when government makes any group of men open game to injustice and oppression – whether preborn or postborn – **we should speak and act against it.**

*To hear the full Election Sermon 2024, go to
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldZs-CZczSE&mt=920s>*

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