

## **The Bible and Abortion**

### ***A fact sheet for those who oppose abortion***

“I have always felt that it was only after a child was born and had a life separate from its mother that it became an individual person and it has always, therefore, seemed to me that what is best for the mother and for the future should be allowed.” **Rev. W.A. Criswell, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention**

The Bible cannot be used to support current Texas laws banning abortion. **In the Old Testament, life does not begin at conception or heartbeat but ‘breath’** (Heb. *nefesh*—life-breath, essential self) **Ezekiel 37, Genesis 2:7.** In addition—

- **In the Christian Bible, there is no text explicitly prohibiting the termination of a pregnancy,** even though it is a practice that has been in existence for centuries.
- **In Numbers 5** beginning with verse 11, **an abortion is performed by a priest.**
- **Exodus 21:22-25** demonstrates that **ending a pregnancy does not violate “Thou shalt not murder.”** Causing a miscarriage incurs a fine and is not subject to the ‘eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth’ penalty.
- **Jesus did not mention the termination of pregnancies in His teachings** and never contradicted the definition of life beginning at breath, including the consequential sins He describes in Matthew 25:31-45. How can we consider our state ‘blessed’ when we do not care for the sick—when rural healthcare is in crisis and the state requires women to carry doomed pregnancies before watching as their babies die in their arms after struggling to breathe? **Of great concern to us as is that many politicians who oppose abortion often actively support laws and policies that flagrantly violate Jesus’s consequential teachings.**

*See other side for more information*

**Harold Lindsell**, editor of Billy Graham's magazine and a promoter of biblical inerrancy, once wrote, "God does not regard the fetus as a soul, no matter how far gestation has progressed. The Law plainly exacts: 'If a man kills any human life he will be put to death.' (Lev. 24:17). But according to Exodus 21:22-24, the destruction of the fetus is not a capital offense."

Most Christians who oppose abortion cite the beautiful 'vessel verses' which describe God 'weaving' or 'knitting' the vessel (body) which may someday become a baby.

- *Isaiah 44:24* concerns a condemnation of idol worship. Those who worship idols do not comport with the commandment to both love God and to love neighbors who are the *Imago Dei*—made in God's image, not the image of idols.
- *In Jeremiah 1:5*, God knew the prophet *before* forming the vessel, and tells him of the plans He has for him—to be a "prophet for the nations."
- Citing in isolation *Psalms 139:13* to oppose abortion is problematic. Read further to Psalm 139:15: "My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, *intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*" Also see *Psalms 137:9*, "Happy is the one who seizes your [enemies'] infants and dashes them against the rocks."

**In Luke 1**, Mary received word from the angel Gabriel that God had chosen her to give birth to Jesus and that Elizabeth was in the 'sixth month.' The fetus which will become John the Baptist leapt in the womb when Elizabeth saw Mary sometime later. It's notable that this aligns with science that tells us that fetal brains develop at 24 weeks at the earliest.

**Evangelical Christians did not concern themselves with abortion until the late 1970s**, as the quotes above demonstrate. In the late 1970s, many succumbed to the lust for power that was offered to them by partisan operatives.

**As Christians, we are called to love God and love our neighbor**, both of which are equally important. **There is nothing loving about the unjust and unmerciful abortion bans in Texas. We can only call them sinful.**