

The Gift of Life

...a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was,
and when he saw him, he had compassion Luke 10.33

Pastor Mark Blair – BICF ZGC – March 2018

When you meet a young mother in a pregnancy crisis, she is...

1. Full of fear: She has never been so afraid and hopeless.
2. Under pressure from circumstances, family, friends & the father.
3. Panicking not thinking, wanting the problem to go away quickly.
4. In two minds: wants and doesn't want an abortion at the same time.
5. Feeling alone, helpless and hopeless. Never been here before.

Some Traumatic Damages Commonly Suffered After An Abortion

Physical	Emotional	Behavioral	Spiritual
Sterility	Increase in crying	Constant sleep	Cannot accept God's forgiveness
Miscarriages	Always tired/exhausted	Insomnia	
Tubal Pregnancies	Loss of patience	Over-eating	
Frigidity	Stomach in knots at mention of abortion	Bulimia	Will not attend Church, fearing a message on abortion
Drug Abuse	No interest in children or excessive interest in children.	Anorexia	Sad or depressed at baby dedications, Mother's Day
Alcohol Abuse	Guilt	Frigidity	Rejects biblical teaching on life, abortion, forgiveness
	Shame	Promiscuity	
	Anger	Nightmares	
	Regret	Workaholic	
	Fear	Unable to make decisions	
	Horror		

We can try to:

1. Lower her fears and increase her hope. Help her see a way forward.
2. Speak truth in love about the humanity of her unborn child. Truth is power.
3. Help her slow down and think; embryology, abortion risks, options.
4. Magnify the quiet voice of her own heart and conscience.
5. Promise to help her now and in the months ahead. Assure her that she is not alone.

Only One Issue

What is the Unborn?

Is the unborn a member of the human family?

"If the unborn are not human, no justification for elective abortion is necessary. But if the unborn are human, no justification for elective abortion is adequate."

Greg Koukl, Stand to Reason, str.org

***"Women have a right to make their
own private decisions."***

*“Many poor women cannot afford to
raise another child.”*

***"A woman should not be forced to bring
an unwanted child into the world."***

"No woman should be forced to raise a child with physical disabilities."

"Every woman has a right to decide what is right and wrong for herself."

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Scientific Case

The facts of science are clear: From the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings.

"Every time a sperm cell and ovum unite a new being is created which is alive and will continue to live unless its death is brought about by some specific condition."

E. L. Potter and J. M. Craig, *Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant*, 3rd ed., Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1975, page vii.

"The beginning of a single human life is from a biological point of view a simple and straightforward matter - the beginning is conception."

Dr. Watson A. Bowes,
University of Colorado Medical School, 1981

Philosophical Case

Do all human beings have an equal right to life or do humans come to be at one point, but only become valuable later in virtue of some acquired characteristic?

The SLED Defense of Life

Size: Yes, embryos are smaller than newborns and adults...is that relevant? Are large people are more valuable than small ones?. Size doesn't equal value.

Level of development: Embryos are less developed...Six-week old infants lack the immediate capacity for performing human mental functions, as do the reversibly comatose, the sleeping, and those with Alzheimer's Disease.

Environment: Where you are does not change who you are... If the unborn are not human and valuable, merely changing their location can't make them so.

Degree of Dependency: If viability bestows human value, what about those who depend on insulin, dialysis, medications, or are bed ridden?

"You say 'A' is white and 'B' is black. It is color, then: the lighter having the right to enslave the darker? Take care. By this rule, you are a slave to the first man you meet with a fairer skin than your own.

"You do not mean color exactly—You mean the whites are intellectually the superiors of the blacks, and therefore have the right to enslave them? Take care again: By this rule you are to be a slave to the first man you meet with an intellect superior to your own.

"But you say it is a question of interest, and, if you can make it your interest, you have the right to enslave another. Very well. And if he can make it his interest, he has the right to enslave you."

Abraham Lincoln

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Biblical Case

There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

Romans 2.9-11

The Four Questions: John Ensor, passionlife.org

1. What does God say about human life, including life in the womb?
2. What does God say about the shedding of innocent blood, including abortion?
3. What hope is there to get God's forgiveness & freedom from the guilt of shedding innocent blood or turning a blind eye to it?
4. What does God call us to do to stop the shedding of innocent blood and how have others done so?

QUESTION 1: WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT HUMAN LIFE, INCLUDING LIFE IN THE WOMB?

“You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor” (Psalm 8:5).

“You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31).

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:26-27).

Intrinsic value: Our humanity alone, rather than our capacities or abilities, makes us valuable to God.

Equal value: All people, male and female, from every “tribe and tongue” throughout the ages are equal.

Exceptional value: Only human beings possess the special dignity and destiny of being image bearers.

QUESTION 2: WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THE SHEDDING OF INNOCENT BLOOD, INCLUDING ABORTION?

Negatively stated: “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).

Positively stated: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord” (Numbers 19:18).

“For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted” (Psalm 91:12)

Is abortion child-sacrifice? Yes. Both involve:

- parents intentionally killing their own children.
- burning or cutting.
- exchanging a human life for something else, either killing to avoid a negative consequence or to secure a benefit. When people abort their unborn child to save their reputation, get a college degree, save money, hide their sexual sin, or please others, they are sacrificing their children in order to avoid a negative consequence or obtain some other benefit. The most painful truth in confessing our regret over abortion is that we sacrificed our children for things of lessor value.

QUESTION 3: HOW DO WE BRING THE GRACE OF THE GOSPEL TO THE GUILT OF ABORTION, SO THAT PEOPLE ARE FORGIVEN AND SET FREE?

Our only hope is the gospel. On the cross, Christ shed his innocent blood to atone for (cover over) our sin of shedding innocent blood. On the cross, Christ suffered the terrible punishment due for all and every one of our sins, including child-killing. God raised Jesus from the dead to assure us of God's acceptance of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice for sins. With faith in Christ, we may be confident of God's forgiveness, and experienced a cleansed conscience to serve God with peace, joy and confidence.

1) **Admit** that God is just to be angry and right to condemn you for your sins.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment” (Psalm 51:3-4).

2) **Confess**, grieve and turn away from your sins and ask God to graciously forgive you.

“For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great” (Psalm 25:11).

3) **Trust** yourself entirely to Christ’s gift of suffering the wrath of God in your place, on the cross.

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

4) **Apply** the good news to your own conscience and turn your guilt into a bold testimony.

“...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God” (Hebrews 9:14).

QUESTIONS 4: WHAT DOES GOD CALL US TO DO TO STOP THE SHEDDING OF INNOCENT BLOOD AND HOW HAVE OTHERS DONE SO?

1) He calls us not to murder (Exodus 20:13), meaning, intentionally killing innocent human life.

2) He calls us not to passively accept acts of murder, not to turn our eyes from it. Deuteronomy 21:7

3) He calls us to actively rescue the innocent.

“Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked” (Psalm 82:3-4).

“The midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live” (Exodus 1:17).

“Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”
(Proverbs 24:11-12).

“Whether declaring God’s truth against Satan’s falsehoods or in taking up the protection of the good and innocent...we must undergo the offenses and hatred of the world which may imperil either our life, our fortunes, or our honor.”
John Calvin, Geneva, 1538

Resources

<http://passionlife.org/>

<https://www.str.org/search/abortion>

<https://www.nrlc.org/site/>

<https://www.lausanne.org/gatherings/related/ig29>