

# God as Creator and Why it Matters (Part 2)

Disclaimer: At some point in this lesson we will discuss Abortion.

- Not all Christians agree on issues dealing with Abortion.
- We need to start having discussions vs. debates.
- Laws tend to follow public opinion. We need to work to change public opinion.
- It is not my job to condemn, but to love and explain God's Grace.

## God Created Man - Genesis 1: 26-27

Man was Created in God's Image

- 1) Capacity to have a relationship with God – Emotions, Logic, all that we are....
- 2) Dignity - All humans should be treated with dignity, since all are made in the image of God.
- 3) Responsibility – Environmental or stewards of our resources.

### Ethics: The value of Life

If God created man in the image of God, who are we to end life?

- We have to be consistent in our views that concern the sanctity of life!
- Any unnecessary loss of life is a tragedy.

### The Theological and Scientific facts concerning the Unborn

#### Theological Debate

“When does life begin” or when does a “Fetus” become a person. (A person that has human rights.) Some in the Christian community believe that life does not begin until a baby takes its first breath.

- Scripture does not discuss Abortion directly. (Exodus 21:22 is an indirect statement.)
- Jewish wisdom book written between 50 BC and 50 AD states it is wrong for a woman to destroy an unborn baby in her belly. Ancient Jewish writings of theology also denounce abortion. And, the Mishnah the written record of Jewish oral teachings (200 BC) stated that a person that kills an embryo should get the death penalty.
- The Christian church going back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century had denounced abortion.
- Scripture teaches us that God knew us before our birth, and that God created us.
- If all “Men and Women” are made in the image of God, then the unborn baby should be treated with value and dignity.

## Science:

Is the fetus really a part of the Women's body? Pro-choice argument is that the fetus is a part of the mother's body, so she gets the right to choose life or death.

- It is alive: it reacts to stimuli and can produce its own cells and develop them into a specific pattern of maturity.
- It is human: it has its own DNA that is completely different from all other living organisms, possessing all forty-six human chromosomes, able to develop only into a human being.
- It is complete: nothing new will be added except the growth and development of what exists from the moment of conception.
- By the time most women have discovered their pregnancy, the unborn baby has brain activity. The three divisions of the brain have formed by week 4 and the brain activity can be measured in week 5 or 6.
- By 12 weeks, every organ of the human body is clearly in place.

Theologian Karl Barth described the fetus:

*The embryo has its own autonomy, its own brain, its own nervous system, its own blood circulation..... It can have its own illnesses in which the mother has no part. Conversely, it may be quite healthy even though the mother is seriously ill. It may die while the mother continues to live. It may also continue to live after its mother's death, and be eventually saved by a timely operation on her dead body. In short, it is a human being in its own right.*

It is a simple fact of biology (science) that the fetus possesses every attribute of human life we find in a newborn infant, with the exception of being independent of its mother.

Therefore, scientifically, the fetus while inside the mother and totally dependent of the mother, is a totally separate human being.

## Why do you believe people seek abortions?

### The response of the Church:

- It starts at home. Parents need to have the relationship with your children so that they can come to you when they discover they are pregnant. Parents need to be supportive and take responsibility to provide whatever support is needed.
- The church needs to be a part of the support structure for the mother and child.
- Provide ministries and homes for the Mothers and the children.

**Final Thought** - Be willing to stand up for the rights of the innocent. Whether it is an unborn baby or another innocent life in our world.

