**Abortion: Shedding Innocent Blood**

Prepared by Nathan Morrison for Sunday February 24th, 2019

Text: John 16:21

# Intro

1. John 16:21
   1. In speaking about His death and resurrection Jesus told His apostles they would have grief for a little while but then their grief would turn to joy and He would see them again (John 16:16-22)
   2. He likened the whole ordeal to a woman in labor: Grief = labor pains; Resurrection = joy at bringing a child into the world. The joy causes no remembrance of the grief!
   3. He used a natural phenomenon to express to them what they will feel at His resurrection.
2. If Jesus were to tell that story to today’s audiences would they understand the concept at joy over a birth?
   1. Many people would!
   2. But it may be met with derision depending on one’s political affiliation. Even those who have experienced joy at birth in the certain party that advocates for abortion on demand would become rabidly defensive about the right of a woman to put to death her child if she so chose!
   3. Murder has become politicized (just as our justice system has) and deemed a right of a mother over her own body, without care or concern for the body of the child within her!
3. America has an idolatry problem with sacrificing children to the idol of self & Planned Parenthood!
   1. Abortion has been around all my life (I was born in 1975) and has become the center of national attention again with news from New York and Virginia showing the true agenda: Women’s rights to include the death of the child outside the womb!
   2. Passed in NY: Reproductive Health Act (<https://www.christianpost.com/news/new-york-legislature-passes-bill-allowing-abortions-up-to-birth-for-any-reason.html>).
   3. Shelved in VA: The Repeal Act (HB 2491) (<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/jan/30/va-gop-defeats-bill-allowing-abortions-until-birth/>).
4. Abortion: Roe v. Wade in 1973 opened the door to mass murder of unborn children in the name of women’s civil rights and murder was changed to abortion!
   1. Surgically-Induced Abortions (Not counting chemically-induced abortions) in US 1973-Current (as of 02/20/2019 as reported by <http://www.numberofabortions.com/>) is 61,070,140
   2. US this Year after 16 weeks gestation: 6,150 (This year, 2019, only 2 months in!)
   3. Significant because of what we know of the development of a baby at 16 weeks:
   * The body is fully formed, the fingers and toes have fingerprints & nails.
   * Is about 5 inches long and weighs about 3 ounces, about the size of a large avocado.
   * The baby is moving about: may grasp for the umbilical cord , suck it's thumb, and is capable of making facial expressions and kicking at the amniotic sac.
   * The heart & circulatory system and the urinary tract are fully functioning. and the blood is pumping through these tiny veins
   * The baby is inhaling and exhaling the amniotic fluid through the lungs.
   * The eyes are in the proper position, and the baby can see straight ahead & blink his/her eyelids.
   * The genitals have formed. In the case of a girl, the uterus has already developed and the ovaries are in the proper place.
   * Umberto Castiello at the University of Padova, Italy reported unborn babies have the ability to interact as early as 14 weeks into the pregnancy.
5. To put that into perspective:
   1. In America's 243 year history (1776-2019) the total dead from all of our wars (Revolutionary War to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars) totals 1,354,676 (Total U.S. War Casualties = 2,852,913) ([www.nytimes.com/2018/11/27/world/asia/us-soldiers-killed-afghanistan.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/27/world/asia/us-soldiers-killed-afghanistan.html)) (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\_States\_military\_casualties\_of\_war).
      1. In just 46 years, legalized abortion has claimed 45 times more lives!
      2. About 1,500,000 babies are slaughtered in America every year!
   2. One young pregnant woman once said, “In this society we save whales, we save timber wolves and bald eagles and Coke bottles. Yet, everyone wanted me to throw away my baby” *(Ronald Reagan, Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation, p. 35).*
6. Our country is a conundrum of conflicting values!
   1. We have always been known to be a country that values human life!
   2. We are known to honor our fallen!
   3. We build monuments and shrines to great men and honor our dead who paid the ultimate price for our freedoms, we have a 24/7 guard at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier! (WA DC, Arlington Cemetery), and we mourn with other countries who lose their sons and daughters to natural disasters or war-related conflicts.
   4. Yet, we like many other countries around the globe, put to death the most vulnerable of us and fail to protect the sanctity of life. In fact, many in our country celebrate the shedding of innocent blood and fight tooth and nail to defend that right to commit it!
7. Because it has become a “political issue” and we hear a lot about it especially during an election year, it is important to talk about this particular heart-wrenching subject.
   1. Political: If you oppose abortion you are “against women’s health and rights!”
   2. ***Not a political issue but a moral issue!***
8. Abortion: Is it murder or a right? What does God’s word say about it?

# **Abortion**

1. Origin: Latin: a·bor·tion
   1. From Latin aboriri: ‘miscarry’ (This described any termination of the pregnancy)
   2. From Latin abortio(n-): intentional miscarry (This described any intentional termination)
   3. Mid-16th century: abortion was used to define an “intentional miscarry” (the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy). (<http://english-ingles.com/en/etymology-of-abortion/>)
   4. Today can include after birth! (NY: Mothers can decide to keep or terminate after birth)
2. Why Do Abortions Occur?
   1. “Why do women desire abortions?” Some might say because of rape or incest (1,243 in 2019 so far, [www.numberofabortions.com](http://www.numberofabortions.com)), birth defects, or a mother’s life is in danger.
   2. Less than 1% of all abortions occur because of those reasons ([www.abort73.com](http://www.abort73.com))
      1. 3/4 of the women who have abortions say:

That having a baby would interfere with work, school, or other responsibilities.

They cannot afford a child.

½ say they do not want to be a single parent.

Only 12% of all women who had an abortion said that a physical problem with their health was the reason for the abortion.

* 1. The decision to abort a baby usually is made for selfish reasons! A few of them:
     1. The child will interfere with my lifestyle.
        1. Children cost money and take time. So instead of making provisions she makes plans - plans to kill the child in order to continue living the same lifestyle.
     2. The child will interfere with my mental health.
        1. Some believe that a birth will damage a mother’s mental health. If giving birth contributes to mental illness, *the entire human race is endangered!*
        2. Mothers must live with the guilt of knowing they murdered their unborn!
        3. This especially occurs when they are later married, and have their first child. They may remember that the “other” child was killed and they made the choice to do it!
     3. The abortion will cover up my fornication/adultery.
        1. Abortions are performed because the fornicator does not want to face the natural consequences of their sin.
        2. Gal. 5:19: Deeds of the flesh include adultery and fornication, impurity, and sensuality
        3. I Cor. 6:9: The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God, inlcuding fornicators and adulterers.

1. Abortion “on-demand” is usually used as a means to avoid consequences for sin and or to cover up sin and avoid shame and embarrassment – they compound sin with another sin: murder!

# **God’s Word On Murder**

1. In regards to the Old Testament Paul wrote, “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4).
2. Murder is defined as: “the unlawful and malicious or premeditated killing of one human being by another” *(Webster).*
3. On the subject of Murder:
   1. Gen. 9:6-7: “Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.”
   2. Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17: “You shall not murder.”
   3. Hos. 4:2: “There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.” (*God’s judgment on Israel)*
   4. Rom. 1:29: Paul, in describing the downfall of a society mentions “murder.”
   5. Rom. 13:9-10: Paul says saints aren’t to commit “murder” and thus fulfill the Law that says, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
   6. Rev. 21:8; 22:15: Murderers will be cast into Hell! ***(It is a sin!)***
4. Abortion is murder as it takes the life of one created in God’s image!
   1. Abortion shows a disregard for human life (Gen. 1:26-27; 9:6-7).
   2. Abortion is a pre-meditated decision to destroy the life of an unborn child, usually for selfish reasons!
   3. Just because American law in the 20th Century has made it legal, does not change the law of God!
5. Murder is sin and cause for one to stand condemned before God – changing the name due to a nation’s legality doesn’t change it with God!

1. **Shedding Innocent Blood**
2. One of the many sins for which God punished His people in the OT was the sin of child sacrifice.
   1. The practice of offering infants as burnt offerings upon idolatrous altars incurred the wrath of Almighty God.
   2. God pointed out Judah's involvement in this sin saying, “They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My mind” (Jer. 7:31).
   3. II Kings 24:2-4: One of the primary reasons for this divine judgment was that the Judean king, Manasseh, “had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood.”
      1. This is probably in reference to the offering of children as sacrifices to the god Molech (II Kings 21:6).
      2. II Kings 21:16: “Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another.”
      3. Talk about legal: Manasseh was king over Judah, God’s people, and he sacrificed his children!
      4. How many children were offered as sacrifices? No one knows for sure, but what was the Lord's attitude toward this innocent blood? *(Even if legal?)*
      5. In reference to this innocent blood it says, “the LORD would not forgive.” Judgment fell on Judah & they went away into Babylonian captivity (586 BC).
   4. Amos 1:13: The Lord pronounced judgment on Ammon for they “ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead In order to enlarge their borders.” They killed unborn children! (God’s judgment was on a pagan nation without the Law of Moses – showing this was universally a sin!)
3. Though it may be true that thousands of babies are not currently being offered as burnt sacrifices on the altar of Molech today, something far worse is happening.
   1. Millions of babies are being sacrificed each year on the idolatrous altars of selfishness, greed, worldly pleasure, and irresponsibility.
   2. All of this is done in the name of what is referred to as “a woman's right to choose.”
4. If one compares the shedding of innocent blood in America due to abortion with Manasseh's sin there is no comparison.
   1. Manasseh and his fellow Judeans were guilty of terrible crimes, but they are small when compared with what Roe v. Wade has accomplished in the U.S.!
   2. If “the LORD would not forgive” the shedding of innocent blood by Manasseh and his fellow Judeans, will the Lord pardon America's (or any of the other nations) ocean of innocent blood shed by abortion?
   3. There is an urgent call/need for repentance! (Prov. 14:34: Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people)
5. God has judged nations before for “the shedding of innocent blood.”
6. Of all the lives to be defended and protected it ought to be those most vulnerable: our children!
7. **God’s Word On Abortion**
8. Abortionists have a distinctly inferior view of human life.
   1. Some who work actively to protect the unborn of endangered species (bald eagle), can see that the unborn eagle is an eagle, but cannot identify the unborn baby as a human?
   2. Heavy fines and jail time are given to those who abort an eagle’s egg. But one can walk out of an abortion clinic with no similar consequences! *(We can identify a baby!)*
   3. According to US Fish and Wildlife Service (<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/eagle/protect/laws.html>):
      1. Harming a bald or golden eagle, including their nest or egg, carries “a maximum fine of $5,000 or one year imprisonment with $10,000 or not more than two years in prison for a second conviction. Felony convictions carry a maximum fine of $250,000 or two years of imprisonment.”
      2. Quite a conundrum of values for our country! Society has placed a higher value on the egg of a bird over the life of a human being!
9. What do the Scriptures say about abortion?
   1. Though we cannot put our finger on a verse that literally says, “abortion is wrong,” we can bring numerous passages and principles to bear on the subject!
10. Children are considered a “blessing” from God:
    1. Psalms 127:3: “Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.” (Psalms 128:3-4: Children a “blessing”)
11. Women who were barren felt unfortunate *(Sarah – Gen. 11:30; Hannah – I Sam. 1:5-6)*
    1. Many women today, upon finding out that they are pregnant, instead of being happy, see the child as a threat to their lifestyle and happiness! (Or will expose their sin!)
12. “When Does Life Begin?”
    1. Many people object to the charge that abortion is murder by stating that life does not begin until birth! (Today in NY, and almost in VA, that argument can’t be made!)
    2. They use language designed to emphasize that the pre-birth child is not a person. They refer to the child as just a “fetus” or “fetal-tissue.”
    3. They refer to abortion as “terminating a pregnancy.” These are terms that pro-abortionist use to reinforce their view that pre-birth infants are not humans yet.
13. What God says to the answer of “When Does Life Begin?”
    1. In the OT we find the same Hebrew word for children *ben [bane] (H1121)* used to describe children in the womb and as grown adults!
       1. Gen. 25:22: Jacob and Esau as “children” in their mother's womb…
       2. Gen. 27:1, 6: Same word used to describe Esau and Jacob as grown adults!
       3. No distinction is noted in the words used to refer to unborn children and those who have already been born!
    2. In the NT the Greek word *brephos [bref'-os] (G1025)* is used to describe the child both before and after birth!
       1. Luke 1:41: “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb” (1:44) – The “baby” is John the Baptist still in the womb!
       2. Luke 2:12: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:16)
       3. No distinction is made in the terminology used to refer to unborn children in contrast to those who have been born!
       4. While society may refer to an aborted baby as simply a “discarded fetus,” the Scriptures refer to unborn babies as living children.
       5. From the perspective of our Creator there is no difference!
    3. God’s Word Speaks Of Unborn Children As Living Persons:
       1. Jer. 1:5: The Lord spoke to Jeremiah the prophet saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations.”
       2. Jeremiah was no less a living person inside the womb than he was outside of it.
       3. Lk. 1:15: Of John the Baptist, the angel said, “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.”
       4. Ps. 139:13-14; Eccl. 11:5: God forms the child in the womb!
       5. Can there be any doubt that John is here spoken of as a living person while yet in the womb? *(Is. 49:1; Is. 44:28-45:7: God called Cyrus by name approx.100 years before his birth!).*
    4. Unborn Babies Have The Attributes Of Living Persons:
       1. Much of the debate surrounding abortion revolves around whether life begins before or after birth.
       2. God’s Word answers the question with great clarity. Many passages of Scripture maintain that “the life of the flesh is in the blood” (Lev. 17:11)
       3. About three weeks following conception, the baby's heart begins to beat and to circulate his own blood supply. If the life is in the blood, then there is life in the womb!
       4. For this reason the penalty for destroying life was given to those who harmed unborn children under the Law of Moses (Ex. 21:22-25).
       5. *Science further confirms this point:* At 6 weeks after conception, the baby's brain waves can be recorded. At 9-10 weeks the baby begins to squint, swallow, and move their tongue. At 10-11 weeks all major organs are present and working within the baby. It is possible for the baby to survive outside the womb after only five months!
    5. By The Standard Of God's Word, Abortion Stands Condemned As Murder:
       1. Murder is defined as killing with premeditated, evil intent.
       2. Abortion on demand is intentional, premeditated shedding of innocent blood.
       3. Abortion: Not a political issue, but is a moral issue!
       4. It is not hard to understand what God thinks of this form of legalized murder!
14. Man is created in “God’s image” and the “life is in the blood,” thus taking a life even still in the womb is “shedding innocent blood” and is murder!

# Conclusion

1. What a calamity that our nation is willing to put to death over 1,000,000 unborn children each year, calling it a woman's “right to choose”, while harming animals carry fines and jail time!
   1. Our country is guilty of shedding much innocent blood!
2. What twisted madness has caused our nation to act so corruptly?
   1. “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20).
3. Abortion is a sin which separates a person from the fellowship of God!
4. Those who receive and perform abortions are guilty of violating the Lord’s revealed will! *(Abortion doctors are worse than any serial killer on record!)*
5. John 16:21: Children are a joy and a blessing from God! ***(Should be cherished and protected!)***
6. Let us never be confused about sin, condone, politicize, or practice sinful things no matter if they are “legal” in the laws of men! *(Those guilty of such sin are in need of repentance & forgiveness!)*
7. If not a Christian, need to be. Repent and be baptized! *(Can have forgiveness now!)*
8. If a Christian in sin, repent of your sins and be renewed with God! *(Can have forgiveness now!)*
9. Whatever your requests, come forward ***NOW*** and let them be known as we stand and sing!

Additional Information:

1. To gain votes of Christians, many candidates began espousing that in the early days of the church Christians were not opposed to abortions: History is not on their side! (<http://www.priestsforlife.org/magisterium/earlychurchfathers/fatherscover.html>)
   1. “Thou shalt not slay the child by procuring abortion; nor, again, shalt thou destroy it after it is born” (*Letter of Barnabas* 19 - 74 AD)
   2. “There are some women among you who by drinking special potions extinguish the life of the future human in their very bowels, thus committing murder before they even give birth” (*Octavius 30,* Minucius Felix – 170 AD)
   3. “Among surgeons' tools there is a certain instrument, which is formed with a nicely-adjusted flexible frame for opening the uterus first of all and keeping it open; it is further furnished with an annular blade, by means of which the limbs within the womb are dissected with anxious but unfaltering care; its last appendage being a blunt or covered hook, wherewith the entire fetus is extracted by a violent delivery. There is also a copper needle or spike, by which the actual death is managed in this furtive robber of life: they give it, from its infanticide function, the name of embruosphaktes, 'the slayer of the infant,' which of course was alive” (*The Soul 25,* Tertullian – 210 AD)
   4. “To hinder a birth is merely a speedier man-killing, nor does it matter whether you take away a life that is born, or destroy one that is coming to birth. That is a man which is going to be one; you have the fruit already in its seed” (*Apology 9,* Tertullian – 210 AD)
   5. “(Christians) marry, like everyone else, and they beget children, but they do not cast out their offspring” (*Letter of Diognetus* – 250 AD)
   6. “She who has intentionally destroyed [the fetus] is subject to the penalty corresponding to a homicide. For us, there is no scrutinizing between the formed and unformed [fetus]; here truly justice is made not only for the unborn but also with reference to the person who is attentive only to himself/herself since so many women generally die for this very reason” (*First Letter 2,* Basil the Great – 374 AD)
   7. “ …those who give the abortifacients and those who take the poisons are guilty of homicide” (*First Letter 8,* Basil the Great – 374 AD)
   8. “Wherefore I beseech you, flee fornication... Why sow where the ground makes it its care to destroy the fruit? - where there are many efforts at abortion? - where there is murder before birth? For even the harlot you do not let continue a mere harlot, but make her a murderess also. You see how drunkenness leads to prostitution, prostitution to adultery, adultery to murder; or rather to something even worse than murder. For I have no names to give it, since it does not take off the thing born, but prevents its being born. Why then do 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 of murder, and arm the woman that was given for childbearing unto slaughter?” (*Homilies on Romans,* John Chrysostom - 391 AD)
   9. “Some go so far as to take potions, that they may insure barrenness, and thus murder human beings almost before their conception. Some, when they find themselves with child through their sin, use drugs to procure abortion, and when, as often happens, they die with their offspring, they enter the lower world laden with the guilt not only of adultery against Christ but also of suicide and child murder” (*Letters 22,* Jerome - 396 AD).
   10. *To the early church writers, abortion was a sin & something Christians did not practice!*