

**Sanctity of life**

... how we as followers of Jesus address the topic of abortion in our society today.

**Terminology**

... an abortion coming from natural causes.

= a miscarriage.

Abortion = a deliberate intervention to end a pregnancy.

**A broken world**

... OT is filled with terribly broken actions of people who follow God

At the time of Jesus it was VERY common for babies to be aborted

... they would be born then exposed and left to die after birth.

In the early church ... went around collecting babies left to die and raising them as their own

“not yet a human” (photo).

PETA ... plague mice needed to be treated humanely by catching and releasing

PETA sees humanity is less important than animals because we are the dominate species.

... discussion regarding when a baby in utero is considered a baby as opposed to a growing lump of cells.

... consistent scientific reality = baby is a baby from the point of conception onwards.

**Is there something special about human life?****Psalm 8**

... humanity has been made only little lower than the angels.

verse 5, YHWH crowned us with glory and honour.

... we are placed over creation to steward it

Jesus died on the cross to redeem humanity from our sin.

... adopted as God's children and as full heirs of all his blessing.

Heaven rejoices when any human turns and puts their trust in Jesus.

**NT passages**

Jesus ... speaks of coming to Jesus like a little baby.

**Jesus shows great love and value to little babies when he blesses them.**

**Gal 5:20 'sorcery' or 'witchcraft' = 'a giver of medicines that can cause abortions'...**

**See also Revelation 21:8, 22:15**

**Didache, "you shall not kill a child by abortion nor kill it after it is born".**

**Is the issue only black and white?**

**... where a baby is fertilised and lodges in the fallopian tubes an abortion will kill the baby and save the mother.**

**... the practice of abortion in our society today however rarely has anything to do with literally saving mum's life at the expense of the baby.**

**How should we respond?**

**... one abortion occurred for every 2.8 births.**

**1) ...see the value of the unborn human life ourselves**

**2) ... like that of Jesus who loved people and showed grace, even in the face of sin.**

**Qu: How would you show grace and love to someone who has already had an abortion regardless of the reason?**

**... often feel they have no alternative**

**IF the person has already had an abortion ... care and do not seek to condemn.**

**IF people are asking if it is OK to get an abortion?**

- Why they are seeking an abortion.
- What they understand their alternatives to be?
- Pray
- Lament
- Care for the person and the baby
- Jesus offered whoever came to him an eternal hope and spoke about life.
- Costly care and love
- Walk with them over the long haul

**Let me finish with a few other points to remember.**

**If you express you views publicly in this matter as a follower of Jesus,**

**... gentle, honest, reflect love, honours the approach Jesus would have had**

**If you seek to write to the political law makers of society, it is OK to give them feedback for flawed legislation and bad reasoning.**

Struggles in Christian living - Abortion

- a. Not pro women
- b. Not safe for any of the people involved
- c. Abortion is not scientific
- d. Abortion legislation is one sided
- e. Abortion is not just a reproductive health issue.

Resources to know more

- Fearfully and wonderfully made (Dr Megan Best)