

WHY IS ABORTION SUCH A BIG DEAL TO CHRISTIANS, GEN.7:1-17

Questions for Christians #13

◆Intro: Scene 1: It was a brisk fall day in Princeton NJ. We lived on the edge of campus. Princeton was replete with trees of all kinds so when the maintenance department gathered the leaves there were literally rows along the road five feet high. We used to walk right through them on the way home from school without stooping, and were completely hidden from view. Cut to scene two: We're driving along in the fall and I see a pile of leaves protruding onto the street. I say, "Hey Dad, drive through that pile with the car! Wouldn't that be cool!" Now, did any hesitation go through your mind at that suggestion? Dad says, "No. There could be a child playing in there." I distinctly remember the feeling of having my heart fall out of body onto the car floor at the thought of that possibility. I hadn't thought of that. There could be a kid in there. Running over a kid, well you just don't do that. Now the chances that there is a kid in there are probably pretty low, maybe 1 in 100,000. I don't know. But because of the slight chance, we don't drive through piles of leaves! There could be a kid in there. And a kid is a person. Why do we know down deep that this is so?

◆[play clip from Horton Hears a Who.]

◆**1. The God says a persons a person no matter how small.**

◆ One of the questions Christians often get asked is "Why do you Christians make such a big deal of abortion?" Well, there could be a kid in there. While we don't *expect* that there is a child in every pile of leaves, we do know for certain that what's inside

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every pregnant mother is a child. Sadly, many folks have driven over the womb often not realizing just what was in there. In America alone we run over 1.3 million lives of the unborn every year! That's more than were lost in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, WW1 & WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq, Iran, and Afghan wars all put together! Lets look at what God says about what's in there.

◆**A.** People are sacred: Genesis Chapter 9 is a repeat of the creation story from chapter 1. Verse 1 renews the same mandate God gave to Adam and Eve with all three terms about humanity: "be fruitful", "multiply", and "swarm". What does that tell you about how God views humans? If that's not enough he repeats in in verse 7! What's new in Gen.9 that wasn't in Genesis 1 is v2-6. Now...there is a contention between man and animals. Now there is a law about killing a man but now about killing animals, so God draws a distinction: a human is not a mere brother to the bear or the dolphins. Why?

◆**B.** Because (v6) people are the image of God. Out of all the cosmos, the boy standing in front of you is a image bearer of the Creator himself. Your daughter, is the Master's offspring! People, of all the biology you can study from ameba to Andies mountain moss, -people are of most import and value. They have rational capacities, moral awareness, the ability to choose how to act.

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- ◆ Bear in mind that human sin has not been solved at this point in history. Chapter 6:5 says
 - ◆ “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”
Genesis 6:5, NIV.
- ◆ That was before the flood. Check out 8:21
 - ◆ “The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.” Genesis 8:21, NIV.
- ◆ And that’s *after* the flood. So the flood didn’t change people into better humans. Neither have they lost who they are. But they have the image of God and God is not about to let that go. It’s why God kept some alive through the flood. And it would be why God chose Abraham’s family to become his nation. It would be why out of 12 brothers, God chose Judah’s tribe to survive. It would be why he chose David’s line to last for eternity. It would be why he sent Jesus, the Anointed One to die under Roman rule and pay for our sin. All along the path of history, God keeps starting again with people, choosing to insure human life,

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choosing not to ditch it and try something else,
choosing to love above all else you...and me.

◆ Don't forget, the unborn child is an image bearer of God, just as much as a woman struggling against a rapist is an image bearer of God, just as much as the exploited teen is an image bearer of no one less than God. Which leads us to another biblical observation. People are not merely people.

◆ **C.** People are persons: personhood is distinctive. We are not multiples of lemmings running through the world. Each person God makes is an individual person known to God. God said to **Jeremiah** ""Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."" Jeremiah 1:5. **Isaiah** the prophet said "Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name." Isaiah 49:1. **David** wrote the same: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ...My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalms 139:13-16. **Elizabeth** pregnant with John the Baptist when Jesus' mother Mary came to visit said,

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“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!...As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:42-44. She sees that what Mary bears is a “child”. She sees what she carries is a “baby”. Not the “blob of tissue in me.” **Paul** the Apostle says God “set me apart while in my mothers womb...” Galatians 1:15.

◆ I think we get the biblical picture. There is really no other view of the unborn besides that of he or she being a distinct person known to God before creation itself. So the mother is not exercising her right over her own body. The child inside her is not her body. It’s someone else altogether. She is it’s carrier. These days we can have *other* people carry *our* babies in *their* bodies!

◆2. Science says a person’s a person no matter how small.

◆ Lets run through what we know of the development of an unborn child today. Lets suppose the child is conceived on January 1, so he or she is due sometime in early October. Here’s what we know from science: Mark Middelberg records the following...

◆ Jan1: all 46 chromosomes that a person has are present at conception. A unique human that can never be duplicated.

◆ Jan.22: child’s heart begins to beat 65x/min, pumps it’s own blood thorough it’s own body, often a different blood type from the mother.

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- ◆Feb.4: Mother's begin to confirm they are pregnant in the 5th week. The child's eyes, legs, and hands have begun to develop.
 - ◆Feb.14: it's Valentines Day. Though the child has already had brain waves, they are now detectable.
 - ◆Feb-late: Around the 7th week the baby begins kicking, and swimming around in the womb.
 - ◆Feb-end: every organ in the child's body is in place, bones are taking shape, fingerprints have begun to form.
 - ◆Mid-Mar: Teeth begin to form, as do fingernails. The baby can turn it's head and make faces.
 - ◆Late-Mar: The baby can grasp objects placed in it's hands.
 - ◆Late Apr: Baby starts having dreams in REM sleep.
 - ◆June: Baby could survive if born prematurely.
 - ◆Oct-early: baby born.
- ◆This year the state of New York cheered itself wildly and patted itself on the back for passing a law allowing a baby to be killed all the way up to delivery. This year, the Born Alive Act, making it law that any child born alive after an abortion could not be killed, was proposed 80 times. Eighty times the Speaker of the House refused to let it be voted on. In our country if you cause the death of an unborn child in the womb you can be charged with homicide. Babies unborn can be considered legal heir of estates. If a woman decides to end her child's life we call it abortion. If someone else does it, we call it homicide.

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◆ Something is very wrong and as a follower of the God who chooses life for humans, you and I have an obligation to stand up and be counted. Write your congressmen and women. Petition your senator. All you need to do is not watch TV for a night and you'll have plenty of time to do it.

◆ **3.** A final note of comfort and redemption. Lets consider the rainbow sign God put in the sky after the Flood. What's that all about? The text says "I will put my bow in the sky". What bow? His bow tie? Is it a bow like on a birthday present? The hebrew term is *quechet*, the weapon with which you fire arrows. That kind of bow. God, you see, is giving man a visible assurance of his promise to love them. That's what the "covenant" is that you see at least six times in the text. **God's covenant promise is to always and forever make a way for sinners (that's all of us), to go on living.** Rather than destroy, he is going to redeem human life. So he's hanging up his bow. He's putting his rifle back on the wall.

◆ He could abort us. He could throw us out with the trash because we are complicating his world. He could squint his eyes and reach for his guns. He could set things up so that whenever a human sins, there is automatic natural disaster that strikes. But that is not who he is.

◆ "He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the people of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious; he is slow to get angry and full of unfailing love. He will not

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constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He has not punished us for all our sins, nor does he deal with us as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.”

Psalms 103:7-11, NLT.

◆ So God used the rainbow as a symbol of his promised compassion for people who tripped in sin, or are still stuck in their sinful condition. (Its ironic that today the rainbow gets used as a symbol of pride in our sinful condition. Human pride is our problem.)

◆ Here’s the good news. God’s bow was not the only thing he was to hang up. Fast forward to the first century, when he let his only begotten Son hang on a cross to give people, persons, the chance to live. God is the ultimate pro-life person! Maybe someone here today hurts over having gone through an abortion. Maybe someone here never quite realized how marvelously God loves human beings. Maybe you are just beginning to understand his prebirth, preexistent knowledge and value of you and all other people. You need to know that his love is not less, or turned away because of our wrongs. That’s why Jesus came. With him the sin that weighs us down is thrown out. All we need to do is repent and with him we are welcomed home and forgiven.

◆ **Conclusion:** When someone wonders about why Christians take such a strong stance on abortion, tell them it’s because God is pro-life and because no matter what they’ve done, or we’ve

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done, he offers it to us again and again. Tell them that there's nothing God wants more than for a person to thrive, and tell them about the hidden meaning of the rainbow; how he is not out to destroy but to give life. And be gracious when you talk about life. Be pro-life to the people you are discussing with! They too are God's image bearers. The issue of abortion carries a lot of pain and guilt for those involved in the process. Tell the truth about the evil of abortion. But tell the truth about the beauty of the forgiving love of God too.

◆ *"For he understands how weak we are; he knows we are only dust. Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die. The wind blows, and we are gone--as though we had never been here. But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children" Psalms 103:14-17, NLT.*