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Biblical Answers FOR abortion

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

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What does the Bible say about abortion?

As Christians, we are called to be compassionate and expected to care for others' burdens as our own (Gal. 6:2). We do this to fulfill God's instruction to love our neighbor. Our foundation is the knowledge that our Creator made everyone with love and intention, meaning we all are valuable (John 3:16, Ps. 139:13-14, Eph. 2:4-7).

In the dialogue surrounding abortion, each side claims that they are loving and valuing life in a truer sense than their opposition. Denominations and individuals are divided. Yet the only true expert on the subject of life and how to show compassion is the Creator—God. Therefore, how can we know God's heart toward abortion and what actions to take if the word "abortion" is never mentioned in the Bible? The answer may surprise you...

Does the Bible mention abortion?

Yes and no. The Bible does not mention the word "abortion." The Bible does, however, touch on all the topics and questions we are trying to answer in the dialogue around abortion, including:

- *When does life begin?*
- *What distinguishes us as humans?*
- *What is the purpose of children?*
- *What are women's rights?*
- *What is the Lord's heart regarding life?*

Does the Bible say when life begins?

Scripture is clear that life begins inside the womb. God was intentional in our creation, granting us life and purpose while we were in utero. Psalm 139:13-16, for example, states:

“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.”

Isaiah 44:24 further exemplifies our divine and intentional humanity in the womb, saying,

“Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself.’”

Scriptures that contain even more evidence that life begins in the womb:

“The Lord called me from the womb ... formed me from the womb to be his servant.” – **ISAIAH 49:1,5**

“You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love.”
– **JOB 10:11-12**

“The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” – **JOB 33:4**

⋮ *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were
born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”*

If the Bible confirms children in the womb are given callings by God, and can be granted the Holy Spirit, then it is safe to assume they are alive. *“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you”* (Jer. 1:5) is evidence of the intimacy and knowledge the Lord has of the preborn. These gifts from the Lord and the very Spirit of the Creator are given to humans in the womb—nothing less than high-value to high purpose-filled creations.

Rather than attempting to pinpoint a time when life begins during the pregnancy, just start at the beginning. When the sperm and egg come together, they create a genetically distinct human organism. A fetus is alive and human, as evidenced by its genetic makeup, growth and independent movement. It is not a mere “clump of cells.”

When do they become human?

Scripture establishes that a baby in the womb is an intentional, valuable human and made in God’s image (Gen. 1:27). Additionally, the exchange between Mary and Elizabeth shows activity much like consciousness while John the Baptist is in Elizabeth’s womb.

⋮ *“And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’”*
– LUKE 1:41-42

There is no magical birth canal that moves a preborn from being a non-human, non-alive entity to human and alive. Even as a tiny embryo, the baby has pairs of distinctly human chromosomes. They are human and alive.

As Harvard University Medical School professor Micheline Matthews-Ross testified before a 1981 U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, “It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception ... and that this developing human always is a member of our species in all stages of life.” (New York Times, April 26, 1981)

Life begins at conception. Yet, there are still concerns people have ...

Concern #1: “Having a child is a burden”

Unfortunately, it is a reality of today’s culture that:

A. Our Jobs demand more and more of our attention

B. Lifestyles have gotten more expensive

Children are often seen as a financial strain and impediment in society. Therefore, many are having fewer children than previous generations and/or waiting longer to have children in general. Which brings up the question, what is the purpose of children?

God calls children a gift

Psalms 127:3-5a says, *“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!”*

The Lord saw children as so valuable that He made time for them

In Matthew 19:14 *“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.’”*

If we are to align our views with the Lord’s, we recognize the value and worth of children. They are a blessing to parents and to society. Also, lining up with God’s value of children, science has shown that adults are happier when they are sharing their love as a parent.

Bringing children into this world is beautiful. Some of the purest joys include watching a giggling, excited little human discover everything for the first time.

Concern #2: “But I’m afraid I’ll be a bad parent. I don’t have ...”

The Lord also says we shouldn’t allow a culture run by fear and anxiety to mold our views on family and scare us from the blessing of having children. Believers, unlike the culture, know there is a Creator who cares for us and our needs, which includes the needs of a parent. Some encouraging Scripture that reiterates the love and care we have in God:

“Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” – **PSALM 55:22**

“Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

– **MATTHEW 6:26-34**

In our world, we have been taught to fear hard things. Yet, ask any athlete about hard workouts and training. Hard things are exactly what helped make them better. This is not to say that children equate with hardship, but there are tough moments as a parent. The sacrifices and care that comes with parenting can shape us into better people.

Concern #3: “But this is not the right time to be a parent”

⋮ *“But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in your hand... Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord!”* – **PSALM 31:14-15a, 24**

Sometimes a pregnancy can happen at the “wrong time,” for example when it was not planned and would be in the way of future goals. However, is this narrative accurate? Doctors, military, athletes, actresses, students and others have found ways to have children and accomplish their dreams. It may not all happen at the same time, but it is possible. As the psalmist reminds us, “My times are in your hand.” (Ps. 31:15a)

Even if a pregnancy happens outside of God’s plan of marriage, the baby is not a sin. A baby is a blessing and an opportunity. The mother and father have been part of the creation process, even if they didn’t intend to get pregnant. It is now their responsibility to steward the new life, which might mean parenting or making an adoption plan. Either way the church also has a responsibility and an opportunity to help, encourage and come alongside the expectant couple with love and grace.

Concern #4: “Abortion is a woman’s right”

Women are incredibly valuable. Scripture is clear about the complete equality in the offer of salvation and the value of women.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” – **GENESIS 1:27**

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

– **GALATIANS 3:28**

“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.” – **PSALM 67:3-4**

Abortion hurts a woman, mentally and physically. Far from being a right, it is a harm to all the parties involved. And there is no right to end the life of another.

With that being said, women still are often expected to bear the full responsibility for a child when the man, who is equally represented in the child’s DNA, decides he wants no part.

It makes sense that a woman in an unexpected pregnancy may feel alone, scared and vulnerable. The church has the privilege of being the hands and feet of Jesus. Let’s work together with the Lord during this difficult time to support the woman and the man.

But we have a God who hears us and is attentive to our prayers

“In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.”

– **PSALM 18:6**

In Scripture, we see that even though Ishmael’s life is a direct result of Abraham’s disobedience, the Lord cares for Ishmael and his mother completely and hears this single mom’s prayer:

“When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, ‘Let me not look on the death of the child.’ And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, ‘What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.’
Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. And God was with the boy, and he grew up.”

– GENESIS 21:15-20a

Abortion being described as women’s rights is:

- *Incorrect, as the baby is a completely new creation with its own value separate from the mother.*
- *Deeply offensive to a Creator who has established He values both the mom and the baby and will care for both.*
- *Physically and mentally harmful to women.*

Instead of discouraging women from being mothers and enabling irresponsibility in men, let’s advocate to care for women and men, especially those who feel alone. We can support them in a fearful place.

Concern #5: “What I do with my body is up to me.”

When our God clearly defines that He has a plan for children in the womb (Jer. 1:5), deciding to end that life is superseding God’s plan. As previously mentioned, abortion has been known to cause mental and physical harm.

The female body was made to give birth, which is part of her good and unique design and privilege.

The Lord is the creator, not us. We have the joy of participating in growing a baby and stewarding them to adulthood, but God is the one who gives life, and with that, He assigns value.

Conclusion: How should Christians approach the issue of abortion?

We know that God created babies in the womb. He established the value of every human being because they are made in His image. This means mother, father and baby are all important. We can also understand that difficult timing can be a strain on a man and a woman. Additionally, women and men are falsely told over and over that they can't possibly have a baby and at the same time fulfill their dreams. So, we, the church, must boldly proclaim the value of all three lives and take action to assist them in ways that they need.

As believers, we cannot stand idly by. The Bible encourages us to advocate and speak up for the preborn, mothers, and fathers:

“Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.”

– PROVERBS 31:8

“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



“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” – JAMES 1:27

“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” – ISAIAH 1:17

It is a privilege to walk alongside women and men and encourage them in vulnerable, fearful time of life. We can be the hands and feet of Jesus and feel confident that it is His will that no one is lost to the devastation of abortion.

For more information on how to become an advocate for life, follow our Instagram account [@I.Am.ProLife](#).

For more related content check out our weekly articles at:

FocusOnTheFamily.com/pro-life

Quick links to other compassionate resources:

[Help Her Be Brave: Pro-Tips When Facing an Unexpected Pregnancy](#)

[Pro-Life Hypocrisy: Slay Your Inner Hypocrite](#)

[Pro-Choice Arguments vs Seeking Truth in Love](#)

[What Does the Bible Say About Abortion?](#)

[Abortion Complications](#)

[Post-Abortion Hope and Healing](#)

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