

Position Paper for Redeemer Fellowship Church

Abortion

In light of the culture in which Redeemer Fellowship Church is located, the issue of abortion has become one that cannot be ignored, but must be addressed from a biblical perspective. The purpose of this paper is not to inject politically charged issues into the life and conversation of the church, but rather to speak truth and clarity into a deeply moral issue that happens to be a major topic of political debate in our current culture. However, abortion is a moral issue first and foremost and a political issue second.

Our consideration must primarily focus on the unborn child since that is where the debate comes to a head. How should we view the inhabitant of the womb? Is this merely a collection of cells with no more moral significance than a tumor or growth? Or is this a distinct person deserving of dignity and rights? It is the position of this church that there is only one right answer to this question, and it is found both in biology and in the pages of sacred Scripture. Biblically minded Christians can come to no other conclusion than that the inhabitant of the womb, at whatever stage of development, is a human being made in the image of God and deserving of honor and dignity.

As we begin, we would do well to start by considering the value of every single human being that exists and where that value comes from. Most people in western society would affirm that humans have some intrinsic value simply by virtue of their humanity. For Christians, we do not simply affirm that human beings have value, but we are told in Scripture why human beings have value. Genesis 1:26-27 tells us, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

We recognize the dignity and immeasurable value of every human being above all other created things is rooted in creation. God created man and woman in his image and gave us a place of special privilege and dominion above all other created things. This assertion is affirmed in various places in the New Testament such as in James 3:9. Human beings therefore have special value, not in light of abilities or intelligence, but by virtue of being created in the image of God.

Next, we must consider whether or not the inhabitant of the womb is a human being. If the inhabitant of the womb is not a human being, then there is, perhaps, an argument to be made for its destruction. However, if the answer is yes, this is a human being, then it follows logically that this is an image bearer of God and has inherent dignity and worth in light of that, as established above. A correct and basic reading of Scripture will lead us to conclude that the latter is true. In Psalm 139:13, David writes, “You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.” In Luke 1:41-44, we see the John the Baptist, still in his mother’s womb, leap for joy as Mary, pregnant with the Messiah, greeted Elizabeth, John’s mother. “For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.” The clear understanding of the Bible is that the inhabitant in the womb is a distinct person, created by God, and therefore has dignity and value.

In light of this biblical understanding of the value and dignity of the unborn child, we conclude that abortion is inherently evil. The *intentional destruction* of the unborn in the womb through abortion is nothing short of murder, and is morally reprehensible (Genesis 4:8-12; Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Matthew 5:21). At every stage of development, from the moment of fertilization to the moment of death, human life is to be honored and defended. These are human infants who bear the image of their creator and as such deserve to be treated with basic human dignity.

Having said all of this, it is also necessary to make clear that the sin of abortion, like all other sins, can be forgiven in Christ Jesus. The grace and mercy of God that has been made available to us through Christ’s atoning work on the cross applies to all sin no matter how bad it is perceived to be. For any woman dealing with guilt and shame from an abortion there is love and mercy and grace and forgiveness at the cross. You can enjoy new life in him free of the guilt and shame that sin brings. To all those who cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, having faith in Jesus, he will provide grace and forgiveness and healing in Christ. 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Our sins are many, but his mercy is more.ⁱ

ⁱ For further study:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jzHwHX601no>
- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/the-beginning-of-life-abortion/#why-do-women-choose-abortion>
- <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2015/08/15520/>

- <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/can-i-be-forgiven-if-ive-had-abortion>