

## “The Pro-Life Movement”

### The Bible and Culture - NLPC Summer 2018 - Week 6

- The Bible is not Pro-Life
  - When it comes human life, the Bible is actually Pro-God...
  - When God is first authorizing the death penalty for murder, He says the following:
 

***Genesis 9:6** - Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.*

    - ▶ The reason God is opposed to murder of a human being is because murder is a direct attack on His image, thus an (attempted) attack on the Lord.
    - ▶ It's not so much “life” that God is protecting by this announcement, it's the honor of His own image.
    - ▶ That's why it's perfectly consistent for God to also assign capital punishment for murder.
  
- Is an unborn child already in God's image, fully human in other words?
  - God regards unborn babies as already being His image bearers, as already true human beings.
  - For example:
 

***Exodus 21:22–23** - <sup>22</sup> “If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. <sup>23</sup> “But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life...*

    - ▶ If a man inadvertently strikes a woman so that she gives birth prematurely, two potential outcomes ensue:
      - ❖ If the child is delivered safely, the man is only fined according to what the husband, and courts, decide.
      - ❖ But if the injury killed the baby and the woman miscarries, the man is put to death.
        - Why? because he took a life...

- IOW, he killed an image bearer of God w/o authorization.
  - The fact that the image bearer was not yet born didn't change that.
- ▶ Clearly then, the scriptures teach that unborn children are true, living human beings because they already bear the image of God.
- Supplementing the above are a host of other passages that speak to unborn believers as “themselves”, not potential versions of themselves...
 

*Psalm 139:13–16* - <sup>13</sup> For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; <sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

*Luke 1:43–44* - <sup>43</sup> “And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? <sup>44</sup> “For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

  - ▶ The full personhood of unborn children is fully assumed by the Lord's word.
  - ▶ And to introduce some qualifier like “this many months along” vs. “that many months along ” is completely arbitrary.
- So why is abortion wrong, from a *Biblical* perspective?
  - ▶ Unborn children are already the image of God.
  - ▶ To kill them is to commit the crime of murder, i.e. an *unauthorized* killing of God's image bearer.
- Modern abortion questions in light of Biblical teaching on unborn babies as God's image bearer.
  - “It's my body; I should be able to do what I want with it.”
    - ▶ In most cases we can agree with that statement.
    - ▶ But the Bible states that the child growing within a woman is not *her* body.

- ❖ It's the body of a separate image bearer.
  - ❖ Thus it is entitled to all the honors and protections that come with it.
- “Shouldn't the State still stay out of this private matter entirely?”
  - ▶ No. Starting in that Genesis 9 passage above, God instituted the State with the specific purpose of protecting (and avenging) God's image bearers.
  - ▶ Thus, from God's perspective, human governments are as responsible to prohibit abortion as they are any other form of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder.
- “What about cases of pregnancy by rape and/or incest?”
  - ▶ First, those are absolutely tragic crimes; and the abusers themselves should be legally punished.
  - ▶ But the baby created by such a union is, again, a separate image bearer of God, entitled to the honors and protections mentioned above.
  - ▶ To abort that child is to commit the even worse tragedy of murder.
- Why this all matters?
  - For our arguments to be truly powerful, the need to be built upon the right foundation.
  - We shouldn't begin to oppose abortion because of our love for life, a love for babies, or a true concern over the damage abortion does to women...
    - ▶ Though all those things are super important!!
  - But what matters most, and where our discussions should begin, is with our concern for *God's* honor, for *His* image.
    - ▶ Taking people to God's word...
    - ▶ Where the Spirit always accompanies...
  - At least getting folks to see that their real issue here is with God primarily, not the pro-lifers or conservatives...