

## Intro - Open to Psalm 139, but we will be all over

Tonight, I am going to give you a general overview of the biblical texts and how they fit into the biblical argument against the murder of preborn children. I am doing this series for three reasons:

First, June brings with it the end of the supreme court session and typically the most controversial cases get their decisions handed down in June. This June, the Dobbs case is likely going to strike down Roe vs. Wade, Doe vs. Bolton and Planned Parenthood vs Casey. Therefore, more than ever, we need to not just have a political reason or a republican reason or a libertarian reason to argue against the murder of preborn children but a biblical reason.

Second, the pro-life movement will be in great need to re-establish its goals. Christians, with God's word should shape that movement or establish a firmer biblical movement.

Third, I have learned much over the past few years about abortion and believe that once armed with the biblical argument, you can better sort out truth from error in all of the pro-life, pro-choice, and abortion argumentation that will only increase in the coming years.

So here is the basic biblical outline and then we will break it down.

God makes mankind in His image.

God makes mankind in the womb from conception as a baby.

God forbids murder (killing of the innocent) of mankind.

God therefore says "you shall not murder babies"

Notice that we cite the Bible as the authority and I encourage you to not depart from the Bible as you may discuss murder of the unborn with neighbors, family or friends. It is our primary and final authority, so we should start and end with it.

## Pray

## One – Image of God

Read Genesis 1:26-27

<sup>26</sup> 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."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

To say that mankind is made in the image of God is what makes human beings valuable. This makes us unique from all other creatures and gives us a dignity because we are to rule God's creation as His representatives. This concept is extended in **Genesis 9:6** where God says, "

Whoever sheds the blood of man,  
by man shall his blood be shed,  
for God made man in his own image.

Why blood for blood? It's the image of God.

The Image of God is also not diminished by the circumstances of conception like rape or incest, nor is it diminished by defects or abnormalities. The image of God is given to every human. Let's look at an example of a birth defect and that person's value.

**John 9:1-3**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Why was the man born blind? So that the works of God might be displayed in him!

This is the bedrock, God is infinitely valuable, we by relation to him as his image bearers are valuable. That cannot be taken away by circumstances or the effects of sin. This leads us to the need to define when someone is a human and the Bible is clear that the moment of conception is the point at which you are human, you are you and are to be valued.

## Two – Created in the womb

Read Psalm 139:13-16

This is the primary passage to spend time in tonight. Let's look at each verse and consider its impact.

### Verse 13 – God formed the Psalmist in his mother's womb.

How does each person come into existence? It isn't a blind mechanical or biological function. The Bible teaches that God is intimately and lovingly a part of shaping each human into existence and throughout our lives. God knits or weaves us together like a master craftsman. His sovereign plan makes no mistakes because he even takes the effects of the fall into account as we saw with the blind man.

### Verse 14 – Our creation produces wonder at God's power

Not only has God created us, knit us together, but we are made with such care and wonder that just existing is praise worthy. We do not derive the worth of a child by what they do or who they are born to or the circumstances of their conception or their choices. Their worth is evident in God's loving creation of them so we should praise God for each child formed in the womb of their mother and as we will see direct every person to protect and value them as God does.

### Verse 15 – God is active in creation

God is not sitting in heaven twiddling his thumbs. He did not spin up the world and watch it go, he is active in creating our skeleton, and even reaching into the infinitely small cellular division and replication that happens in the early states of development. He forms us in the places where humanity has only dreamed of seeing into before the ultrasound was invented.

### Verse 16 – God has a plan for the unborn

God doesn't just create, he plans. He knows from the moment of our conception all the days of our life are ordained. Written down, as in, they cannot be rewritten or changed. It is in the mind of God and his infinite power and wisdom that he works out the complexity of this. But its clear. That when we were an unborn child he has our childhood, our adulthood, our children, and our death all planned out from the beginning.

John Stott, an English Pastor, summarizes these verses like this:

The Psalmist was created by God.

The Psalmist's continuity between prenatal and postnatal life.

The Psalmist Communion or Covenant with God.

It's that second point, the same person that is conceived is also born, is what we find throughout the testimony of the scripture. Who God creates in the womb is the same person as an adult. **Genesis 4:1**, Eve conceived and gave birth to Cain. Cain was conceived and Cain was born. David speaks about himself in **Psalm 51:5** – David was sinful at birth, but not just when he was born. His sin nature extended back to when his mother conceived him. David was David from conception through birth and into adulthood when he penned this Psalm.

The incarnation of Jesus is further proof. Consider that a clump of cells did not develop into Jesus the Messiah. From the earliest moments of the incarnation he was the God-Man and continued to be the God-Man after he was born and into adulthood.

**Matthew 1:20-21** – Jesus was the Messiah in the womb. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Who is conceived? Jesus! What is the result of conception? The Messiah.

**Luke 1:41-44** – when Mary carries Jesus in her womb, he is already called a baby [brephos] and is recognized by John the Baptist in Elizabeth's womb. Later in Luke 2 he is called the same baby [brephos] when he is about 2 years old when the Magi arrive. Before birth, baby Jesus is the same baby Jesus at 2 years old.

So God, as our creator defines humanity as starting at conception which means that the evil of murder is where we must turn to next.

## Three – Murder is forbidden

Read Exodus 20:13

The sixth commandment: **You shall not murder**. Do I really need to say more? It is this biblical law that extends from the 10 commandments until today into every human law system that probably exists. Even tyrants outlaw murder. They just want to be the only one to be able to murder. They also recognize it would be bad if someone murdered them.

So, what about someone who cannot speak for themselves or have enough power to protect themselves. Like a baby.

The Bible is consistently against Infanticide (I know you are shocked)

**Exodus 1** – Hebrew midwives are praised for not killing babies. Moses exists because his mother was brave enough not to murder her child.

**Leviticus 18:21** – forbidding the worship of Molech through child sacrifice. They would offer them by fire. So the enduring principle is not to murder your child for any benefit that a false god, idol or other person could offer you in exchange for the life of your child.

The bible has a strong witness to the value of image bearers, all of them. It speaks to this extending specifically and logically to image bearers in the womb. Then murder, infanticide included, is a horrifying evil as you are ending the life of an image bearer. So where do we close out?

## **Therefore – You shall not murder babies**

**Read Exodus 23:6-7**

**6 “You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit. 7 Keep far from a false charge, and do not kill the innocent and righteous, for I will not acquit the wicked.**

Israel was guilty of disobedience of this on many occasions. Amos 2 is a perfect example where God condemns Israel for the perversion of justice to condemn the righteous, and to trample the poor and oppressed.

A culture will be judged based on how the weakest and defenseless in a society are treated. We have an incredible amount of money and moral care in our social safety net as a country. Sadly, the place where we have the hole in the net, to the tune of over a million image bearers a year, is where we have systematically murdered our children for the sake of our decadent or selfish reasons.

We are a culture for the past 50 years that death has reigned like Romans 5. It has reigned in Adam but our nation has let it reign through the religious sacrifice of our children on the altar. It's religious because our culture has claimed that murder of the unborn is the great sacred practice that every woman must practice or be able to practice. It's a deadly religious claim.

## **Conclusion**

Next week we will discuss where to go from here. Yet we cannot leave the sin of murder of the unborn without discussing the great forgiveness offered to us in Christ.

**1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

Yes, murder, systematic murder, horrifying, blood curdling, intentional murder can and has been forgiven through Christ's blood shed on the cross.

There are mothers and fathers who have murdered their children who see the horror and repent and find true healing in Christ. How else will they be reunited with that child but through Christ? How will you repent of your sins if Christians with the word of God will not tell you?

My call tonight is to weep and recognize that the Bible speaks clearly and truthfully as we look at our culture's greatest religious sacrament of death. The worship of the death of another for the life of the mother.

We must tell our children and our neighbors the truths of scripture so that they will repent and believe.

The biggest change I am seeing right now, in the fight against the murder of the unborn is the call not just for a ban after 12 weeks or after a heartbeat but a recognition, like the Bible gives, of the humanity of the unborn child. That they would be protected in the law like any other murder. When the unborn child is seen as an image bearer, not to be sacrificed but to be protected, we can give up the fight. Until then, the sinful heart of man will think of more and more creative ways to murder our children, so we must say clearly and bravely:

“Thus says the Lord, You shall not murder babies.”

**Biblical Morality: Abortion**  
**You Shall Not Murder Babies**

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John 9:1-3

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