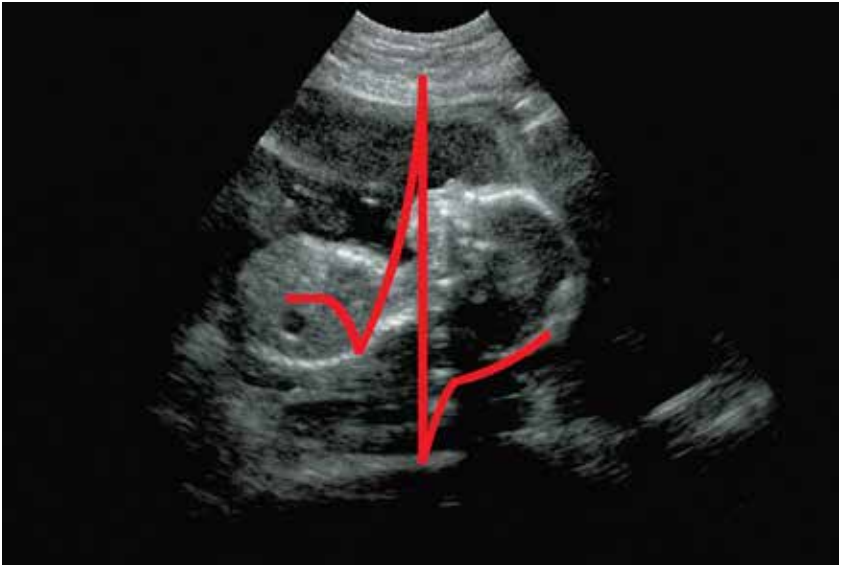


# The Christian Woman and . . .



## Abortion

When a social media survey asked when was it okay to have an abortion, everyone responded with a clear “NEVER.” The conclusion was that life began at conception. The thought came to me that if so many Christian men and women responded “never” to that survey, then why aren’t there more advocates for the unborn? Why don’t more people get involved in pro-life ministries? And then I sensed God whispering in my heart, “Because it is not personal to them.”

When we learn that our loved one is expecting, it is personal, and we become passionate about that sweet unborn baby. The unborn are personal to God, too, regardless of the situation! We are created in His image, and Psalm 139 says that He knew us when we were yet unformed. He cares about what happens to unborn babies. In the Old Testament Law He made provision for someone if they *accidentally* caused a miscarriage and *punishment* for the one who intentionally caused a woman to miscarry.

## A Time to Be Born

**Key Verse:** *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations”* (Jeremiah 1:5).

**Other passages:** Psalm 139:13-17; Exodus 21:22-23

But here is where the controversy begins for some believers. When does life begin? Some say when the heartbeat is detected at around five weeks' gestation. Others say when the pregnancy has progressed to a point of sustaining the baby's life outside the womb. What does the Word of God say? Psalm 139:16 says, “Thine eyes did see my substance yet being unperfected!” This would be the embryonic stage! And it goes on to say that all our members were written in His book and were fashioned “when as yet there was none of them.” This is speaking of what we know by a modern term of DNA. At conception, our entire DNA is there to determine our hair color, eye color, how tall we will be, and our talents. Our personalities are written in our DNA code. God knew us when we were not yet formed!

God also has a predetermined time to be born. Scripture says in

Ecclesiastes 3:2 there is “a time to be born and a time to die.”

One in ten women in the United States will have an abortion by age 20. Our culture screams it is a woman's right to determine when she will give birth. Some even

say it is not a baby when

it is still in the

womb. This

has allowed the development of partial

birth abortions

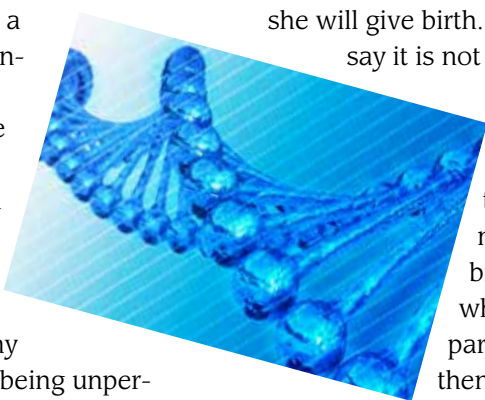
when a baby is

partially delivered then killed. This is

*not* what God says.

He determines the time to be born and the time to die. Who are we to say to the One who created us that we know best? Abortion is taking an unborn baby's life regardless of the procedure or the gestation of pregnancy.

God has a plan for the unborn child. In Jeremiah chapter 1, God tells Jeremiah He ordained him as a prophet before he came forth out of the womb. God never condones sin, but He can use what the enemy meant for evil for His glory! No matter the circumstances by



which a person was conceived, God has a plan for that life! I have had people ask me about cases of rape or incest, and my answer, according to the Word of God, is that every life is precious to Him since He forms it and knows it!

When someone's father robbed a bank or their mother stole from a store, would it be just for that individual to be sentenced to prison for their parents' sin? No!

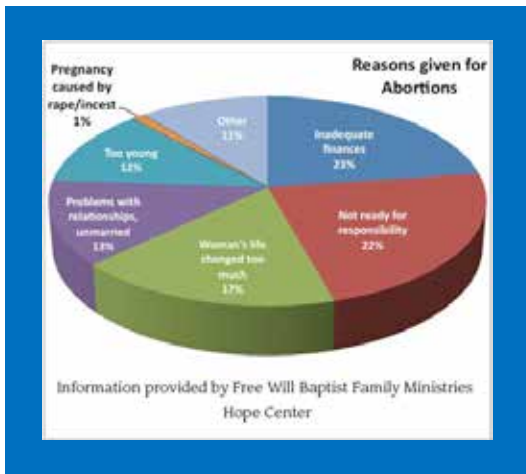
The same is true for an unborn child. That child should not have to forfeit his life for the parents' sin!

Why do women abort? What could possibly cause her to choose to take her child's life? Some are afraid for their family to know they have been in a physical relationship. I have had clients involved in extramarital affairs and become pregnant who were afraid for their husbands to learn of their adultery. I have worked with young ladies afraid of losing their boyfriends. In some cases it is an inconvenient time for a baby. Job, or school, or finances are reasons they give for

choosing abortion. And then there are women who just don't want the responsibility of a child or the burden of an additional child.

We don't understand their reasoning because we are not in their situation. It is overwhelming for them, and fear is irrational. They believe abortion will fix their problems or be an easy way

out. The sad reality is that abortion always leaves grief, guilt, regret, shame, and anxiety for the woman to deal with! If abortion is so healthy for a woman, and



does not end a child's life, why is there so much secrecy and shame surrounding it?

Many women experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) almost immediately after having an abortion and it can continue to affect them years later. I met a woman in her early sixties who was enrolled in a post-abortion Bible study because her secret and shame was eating away at her during her empty nest years. One young lady in a post-abortion recovery class with me actually began to have problems immediately

and was searching for her aborted baby in the clinic that performed the abortion. Others experience nightmares, relationship problems, drug and alcohol abuse, depression, and anxiety as a result of the trauma of their abortion.

How do we help someone who has had an abortion? Do we cry “murderer” when we learn of their abortion? Look at Jesus with the woman caught in adultery. He had compassion and mercy. He asked where her accusers were and who condemned her. She replied, “No one,” and he said, “Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no

more.” We must deal with the sin but love and show compassion for the sinner. These women are in our families, workplaces, and churches and suffer in shameful silence. They are afraid to ask for help because they think we will shun them. There can be healing, forgiveness, and restoration.

Norma McCorvey was Roe in *Roe v. Wade*, the case that legalized abortion. She was working in an abortion clinic and a young child, whose parents were protesting the clinic, began showing Norma love and acceptance. The

little girl showed Christ’s love to the infamous woman responsible for the destruction of more than 50 million babies since 1973. Norma got saved because of this grace and mercy shown by an innocent child. She went through counseling, applied God’s truth to her wounds, and penned the book, *Won by Love*, detailing her experiences. She stepped out of the secret shame of abortion. What the devil meant for evil became a pro-life ministry.

So where is our grace and

compassion? Where is the passion for the unborn created in God’s image? Is abortion

#### Statistics by Age\*

- 1 in 3 women will have an abortion before the age of 45
- 50% of women having abortions in the U.S. are younger than 25
- 33% of abortions are women 20-24 years old
- 17% are teenagers

something too political for us to get involved with? Is it not personal enough to you? Satan has always devised ways meant to destroy God’s people. In the Old Testament, the Israelites repeatedly left off worshipping Jehovah God and followed after the pagan gods of the people around them. One such god was Molech of the Ammonites. The worship of Molech included child sacrifice. The babies and small children were placed in the hot, burning arms of this idol. Where were the true worshipers

of Jehovah? Did they just turn a blind eye? Could they not hear the screams and cries of those offered to this idol? Were there protesters? Did someone try to minister to the parents waiting in line to make their sacrifice? Who reached out to the parents who offered their children to Molech, to help them through their grief? Then it was the arms of Molech; today it is abortion. What does Jeremiah 1:5 say about who formed us and when?

Psalm 139:13-17 details the personal involvement of God in the developing baby before birth. List the different ways God is personally involved.

Some translations say that He knit and wove us. DNA has a double helix that looks like a braided strand of chromosomes. How does this compare with what the psalmist wrote?

Read Exodus 21:22-23. How does this correlate to abortion today?

King David tried to cover his sin with the murder of Bathsheba's husband. This was someone called "a man after God's own heart." Why do you think individuals in churches or Christian homes turn to abortion? How can we remove the stigma of a crisis pregnancy without compromising our beliefs and God's Word?

Would you be willing to volunteer in a pro-life ministry or host a speaker from one at your next WAC meeting?

### **We Should Value Life . . . WHY?**

- 21 days – heart is beating
- 28 days – nervous system formed
- 8 weeks – lungs are developing
- 10 weeks – arms, legs, fingers, toes, and ears can be seen on ultrasound
- 11 weeks – all the major organ systems are formed, can yawn and suck
- 14 weeks – can suck thumb and swallow
- 18 weeks – can blink, frown and feel pain, bones getting harder
- 20 weeks – about 10 inches long and weighs 11 ounces
- 24 weeks – recognizes mother's voice and may be able to survive outside the womb
- 26 weeks – weighs almost 2 pounds, eyebrows and eyelashes formed, hears sounds outside the womb
- 28 weeks – 15 inches long and weighs 2 ½ lbs.
- 34 weeks – 17 inches long, weighs 4 ½ lbs., has fingernails, toenails and hair on its head
- 40 weeks – probably about 20 inches long and 7 or 8 lbs. – ready to be born.

**Meet the Writer:** Dana Copeland serves as the director of Monroe County Sav-a-Life crisis pregnancy center. She and her husband Sam live in Greenwood Springs, Mississippi, and attend Amory First Free Will Baptist Church.

*\*As an outreach arm of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries [FWBFM], The Hope Center is located in Greeneville, TN. For more information on how to get involved or support The Hope Center on a regular basis, please call 423-638-5433 or visit [www.fwbfm.com/services/the-hope-center](http://www.fwbfm.com/services/the-hope-center)*