

The Consequences of Ideas
Lesson 24: The Truth About Life & Death

I. Defining the Biblical Issues

- a. Christians, by banding together around the Manhattan Declaration, may serve their generation by helping them to **understand** the life-and-death issues which are tearing at our national fabric.
- b. For example, the “pro-choice” position asserts that since pregnancy affects the woman’s **body**, the determination of whether or not to abort a child should be left to her alone. Her body, her choice.
- c. The signers of the MD believe that if women were presented with the **Truth** about their pregnancy and the options available to them, very few women would choose to murder their children.
- d. Those who choose abortion fail to understand that the life they seek to extinguish is actually a human person under development and is a **gift of God**.
- e. This Truth, known to Bible believers, must be **published** clearly and forcefully in our culture to combat the lies and omissions of pro-abortion forces. Consider what God says:
 1. God regards life in the womb as fully human and deserving the **protection** of Law. *Ex 21:22-23 If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, KJV*
 2. The **nature** of the person is formed at conception- Ps 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. KJV
 3. The human embryo is shaped by God and all of our human attributes are specifically designed by Him at **conception**. *Ps 139:13-16 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. KJV*
 4. The unborn fetus has **consciousness**. *Luke 1:41-44 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. KJV*
 5. God has designed each human person in the womb according to **His purposes** for that person’s life. *Jer 1:5 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. KJV*
 6. The implications are clear: Only those who grasp God’s point of view will understand the sanctity of human life at conception. That message is one that **only** believers can deliver.

II. “The Culture of Death” Problem

- a. Although public sentiment has moved in a pro-life direction, pro-abortion ideology prevails today in our **government**. We live in a “culture of death” and this is evident in our policies and politics.
- b. Many in the present administration want to make abortions legal at **any stage** of fetal development, and want to provide abortions at taxpayer expense. Majorities in both houses of Congress hold pro-abortion views.
- c. The Supreme Court, whose infamous 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade stripped the unborn of legal protection, continues to treat elective abortion as a fundamental constitutional **right**.
- d. The President has pledged to make abortion more easily and widely available by **eliminating** laws prohibiting government funding, requiring waiting periods, or parental notification of abortions for minors.
- e. The elimination of these important and effective pro-life laws will significantly **increase** the number of elective abortions by which the lives of countless children are snuffed out prior to birth.
- f. We call on all officials in our country, elected and appointed, to **protect** and serve every member of our society, including the most marginalized, voiceless, and vulnerable among us.
- g. This culture of death inevitably **cheapens** life in all its stages and conditions by promoting the belief that lives that are imperfect, immature or inconvenient are worthless to the collective.
- h. As predicted by many prescient persons, the cheapening of life that began with abortion has now metastasized like a **cancer** in American politics and culture.
- i. For example, human embryo-destructive research and its **public funding** are promoted in the name of science and in the cause of developing treatments and cures for diseases and injuries.
- j. The President and many in Congress favor the expansion of embryo-research to include the taxpayer funding of so-called “therapeutic **cloning**.”
- k. This would result in the industrial mass production of human embryos **to be killed** for the purpose of producing genetically customized stem cell lines and tissues.

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- l. At the other **end** of life, an increasingly powerful movement to promote assisted suicide and “voluntary” euthanasia threatens the lives of vulnerable elderly and disabled persons.
- m. Eugenicists subscribe to the progressive notion advanced by the intellectual elite in the 1920’s that there is such a thing as a “life **unworthy** of life.”
- n. While eugenicists mask their evil intent by using words like “liberty,” “autonomy,” and “choice”, the **only** voice to speak against this culture of death belongs to those who comprehend life from God’s perspective.

III. The Christian Responsibility

- a. God’s people have a duty to stand up to governments when they are doing wrong, and to **proclaim** the Truth of God.
 1. **Nathan** confronted David. 2 Samuel 12:1-15 V7 *And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. KJV*
 2. **Daniel** appealed to Nebuchadnezzar to change his ways. *Dan 4:27 Therefore, O king, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue." NIV*
 3. **John** the Baptist confronted Herod for his immorality. *Matt 14:1-5 At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her." Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered him a prophet. NIV*
 4. The **Apostles** confronted the Sanhedrin for their illegal killing of Jesus. *Acts 5:27-32 Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men! The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." NIV-*

What happens in a society where Christians fail in this duty?

IV. Our Stand

- a. We will be united and untiring in our efforts to **roll back** the license to kill that began with the abandonment of the unborn to abortion.
- b. We will work to bring assistance, comfort, and care to pregnant women in need and to those who have been **victimized** by abortion.
- c. We will stand resolutely against the corrupt and **degrading** notion that it can somehow be in the best interests of women to willingly and deliberately submit to the killing of their unborn children.
- d. Our message is, and ever shall be, that the just, humane, and truly Christian answer to problem pregnancies is for all of us to love and care for mother and child **alike**.
- e. We call on those who have been entrusted with temporal power to fulfill the first responsibility of government: **to protect** the weak and vulnerable against violent attack.
- f. We must be willing to defend, even at risk and **cost** to ourselves and our institutions, the lives of our brothers and sisters at every stage of development and in every condition.
- g. Our concern is **not** confined to our own nation but for those around the globe who are suffering as innocent victims of war and or being exploited as vulnerable and involuntary laborers.
- h. We will work toward ending the sexual **trafficking** of both males and females; we oppose the abandonment of the aged and the persecution of believers of all nations.
- i. We believe that these travesties flow from the demonic **hatred** of the human person who is made in the image of God.
- j. As Truth-bearers, we are **compelled** to stand against the Satan inspired ideology that drives the abortion industry, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and human cloning for biomedical research.

V. Application: Our Response

- a. We pledge to each other, and to our fellow believers, that no power on earth, be it cultural or political, will intimidate us into silence or acquiescence.
- b. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in its fullness, both in season and out of season. May God help us not to fail in that duty.
- c. What does taking a public stand mean to you personally?
- d. Besides signing the Manhattan Declaration, what specific activities might one participate in to take such a public stand for the Truth?