

Fighting for Life

Psalm 139

What is most dangerous place to be in your neighborhood? In a prison, back alley, conflict with a criminal, knife fight? In the womb of a teenage girl. More than one in two pregnancies among 15-17 year-olds and two in three for girls under 15 ends in abortion in King County. And it's not just teenagers. Half of the unintended pregnancies of women 24 years old and younger end in abortion. One occurs every 13 minutes of the business day. Coming up next year on the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the statistics are horrifying: over 50 million boys and girls sacrificed on the altar of choice since 1973. What is going on? How did we get here? And what do we do about it?

Is Abortion Murder?

- i. The biblical case: Ps. 139:13-16; Ps. 51:5; Gal. 1:15; Ex. 20:13, 21:22-25; Lk. 1:40-44; Ps. 106:34-38, 44-45.
- ii. An Historical Glance: Hippocratic Oath, *Didache*, *Epistle of Barnabas*. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, abortion was in some form legal in every state. By the end of it, every state had criminalized the act. Over two decades, 1860-1880, Christians withstood a growing abortion industry and united politicians, journalists, physicians, feminists and more to the cause of life. Despite these legal victories, foundations were crumbling. In 1859, Darwin published *On the Origin of Species By Means of Natural Selection, or, the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*. Darwin provided a new framework for understanding the development of mankind, and Social Darwinism logically emerged with some people wanting to eliminate the “unfavored” races. One such person was Margaret Sanger who founded Planned Parenthood (formerly the Birth Control League) and wrote openly in her popular book *The Pivot of Civilization* that “genetically inferior races” ought to be sterilized, “morons, misfits, and the maladjusted” segregated, and “human weeds” eliminated from society. She publicly endorsed Nazi Germany’s “race purification” program, and the director of the Nazi Medical Experimentation program, Ernst Rudin, wrote for her magazine *The Birth Control Review*. In 1939 she established the “Negro Project” to reduce the black population, and today 50% of abortions are performed on black and Hispanic women. In 1973 Roe v. Wade swept away all state laws prohibiting abortion at any stage. Today Planned Parenthood is the largest and wealthiest abortion provider in the world. It’s active in 134 countries, has over 20,000 volunteers and nearly 1000 clinics in the US, and altogether an estimated billion dollar annual budget.
- iii. The scientific case: Real-time ultrasounds have been available since 1976, and as they have become more common and affordable, we can see what before could only be imagined.
 - 2 Weeks: the baby’s heart beats with its own blood.
 - 6 Weeks: 1 inch long and developed fingers.
 - 6.5 Weeks: He or she moves though you can’t feel it.
 - 7 Weeks: Brain waves are detectable.
 - 9 Weeks: Fingerprints, discernable gender, kidneys are functioning.
 - 10 Weeks: Gall bladder.
 - 12 Weeks: All organs are present and the baby can cry, all within three months. Abortion rates go down drastically after ultrasounds because seeing a baby is believing.

What Can We Do?

- i. Trust God (Ps. 11).
- ii. Abound in God's forgiveness for you, your children and many far off (Acts 2:39; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
- iii. Fathers, lead, talk to and pray for your wives, daughters and sons. Wives, help your husbands. Who do you know that is abortion vulnerable?
- iv. Consider giving or serving. Care Net of Puget Sound takes over 10,000 calls annually on their 24/7 helpline. They teach parenting classes (2996), do ultrasounds (1041) and share the gospel (1133).
- v. Know and love your city and state. Contact your representatives (800-562-6000). Follow the issues (<http://www.fpiw.org/>).
- vi. Hope and pray. This really comes first and last. A Gallup poll found that 51% of Americans are pro-life, while 42% are pro-choice. Among women, 64% think abortion is morally wrong, and 51% of men. And 65% want abortion reduced, up six points from 2005. Our aim is not political. It's eternal. We advocate life because we offer eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ.

Notes for Little Saints

1. When did God begin making you (Psalm 139:13-16)?
2. How does Jesus tell us to treat little ones (Matt. 18:10)?
3. What does the man do who is blessed by the Lord in Ps. 128:1?
4. Who is in his house (Ps. 128:3)?
5. When you have a problem or commit a sin, who should you tell?