

A Bible Study for Amazing Grace, 2010 AD

Introduction

What are the statistics?

The Right to Live

Genesis 2:7

Exodus 20:13 (Matthew 19:18)

Matthew 5:21-22

Genesis 9:5-6

The Meaning and Purpose of Life

2 Corinthians 5:15

Romans 14:8

What makes human life more precious/special than all other forms of life and more precious/special than "temporary" matters of this world?

John 11:25-26; 14:29

Ephesians 4:24

When does Life Begin?

Psalm 51:5

Psalm 139:13-16

Luke 1:41,44

1. At conception?
2. When the embryo changes into a fetus?
3. When the infant draws its first breath?

For Discussion

1. Respond to these reasons people offer for an abortion:
 - a person is the master of his/her own fate
 - global overpopulation
 - a woman has the right to decide matters concerning her own body; she can decide whether to have her ears pierced, whether to have a tonsillectomy, whether to have an abortion.
 - an embryo or fetus is only potential human life.

2. (Agree or Disagree) Abortion is justified when a pregnancy occurs following rape or incest.
3. (Agree or Disagree) Abortion is justified when the life of the mother is in danger.
4. Some say that government should legislate morality. What do you think?
5. (Agree or Disagree) It is inappropriate for a Christian to participate in Operation Rescue tactics (e.g. blocking the entrance to abortion clinics).
6. What can a Christian do to prevent the murder of the unborn?

SCENARIO TO RESPOND TO

Katie is a nineteen-year-old college student. During the spring semester she was involved in a semi-serious relationship with a boyfriend which resulted in Katie becoming pregnant. Katie and her boyfriend agree that they are not ready for the permanent commitment of marriage. Katie plans to continue her education and hopes to become an attorney. She feels overwhelmed by the thought of raising the baby as a single parent. Katie and her boyfriend received counseling through an agency and together they plan to place their child for adoption into a two parent, stable Christian family. They say that they are making their decision based on their deep love for their child.

Beth is a sixteen-year-old high school student. She has been sexually active for the past two years, and never thought she would wind up pregnant. She has no prospects for marriage, and really has not given much thought to the future at all. Beth lives at home with her parents, and they have promised to help out in any way they can. Beth has decided to keep her baby - she and her family are not willing even to consider adoption. They believe that they have a God-given responsibility to raise the child. "After all," they say, "this baby is our own flesh and blood."

7. Both Katie and Beth were faced with out-of-wedlock pregnancy requiring a major life decision.

8. Which of the two young women do you think is making the wiser decision? What is the basis for your answer?

In spite of its history of serving children and in spite of its being a biblical concept established by God, adoption seems to be viewed by many, including Christians, as a less than acceptable alternative. Some reasons for not considering adoption as a positive choice include:

1. No one else could love a child as much as the child's "real" mother.

2. God expects people to face the consequences of their sin; therefore unwed mothers must raise their children.

3. Some adoptions don't work out very well (e.g., the children do poorly in school, the parents divorce).

4. Choosing adoption is not a popular choice; there is much peer pressure and family pressure to keep the child.

5. A feeling that the birth mother has "earned" the child because she endured a nine-month pregnancy rather than aborting the child.

Discuss the validity of these statements. What are the other sides to be considered?