

“Who Owns You?”

Understanding What God Thinks about

Abortion/Euthanasia/Suicide Part 2

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Discuss

Things to keep in mind when talking about this subject:

- 1) Don't ignore the reality of the abortion statistics: From 1970-2014...44.5 million U.S.
- 2) Don't forget the guilt in the hearts of those individuals who have had abortions.
- 3) Don't diminish the circumstances...each circumstance is different.
- 4) Don't soft-sell the “suffering” issue in regards to euthanasia.
- 5) Don't make suicide the unforgivable sin.
- 6) Don't be a jerk...don't go ballistic when grace and balance are actually what is needed.

Discover

“**What should we think of those who perform abortion?**” Well... my initial answer is to pray for them. Consider the fact that in Nazi Germany 6 million Jews were slaughtered...terrible to be sure. But let me repeat the fact that 44.5 million children have been slaughtered by abortionists...which would you say is worse? Right? I would say that we should be just as outraged about abortion as we are about the Holocaust. Consider then the passages I mentioned last week: **Exodus 1:15-22; Matthew 2:1-18**. (Turn your righteous indignation about abortion into positive action however!)

“Abortion and Forgiveness?” Having said that...one of the most important things to talk about within this topic is the subject of forgiveness for abortion. The weight of guilt carried by women/men who have participated in abortions is often massive and sadly, lifelong. We must proclaim “forgiveness” as loudly as we proclaim “pro-life!” To dump “godly guilt” on a woman already suffering under the weight of the guilt of abortion is heinous...she/he can be forgiven! See what Christ said in **Luke 23:39-43**. Why is that story helpful? Also consider **Psalms 103:8-12**.

On a related subject, why shouldn't a Christian ever consider abortion to be an acceptable course of action? **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**.

“Abortion is okay in the LCMS? What?” Please understand that your Pastors would, will, and do fight tooth and nail to convince women/couples to keep a baby conceived as a result of incest or rape. Often it is a moot point because the woman has already decided to do that very thing on her own. By the way, in that regard, only .5% of abortions...that's point-five-percent of abortions...are performed because of pregnancies from rape/incest. Consider Joseph's words in **Genesis 50:15-21**. (Also consider the fact that the abortion itself can become a lasting source of guilt, which is piled on top of the pain of the rape/incest.)

“God causing the pregnancy as a result of rape or incest?” Last week a great argument was made that in the same way that “things happen in a sinful world” like cancer; car accidents; etc., things not necessarily orchestrated by God, perhaps pregnancy because of rape/incest could be just a “thing” that happened because of sin in the world. Hmmmm...the issue with the theory? **Psalm 139:7-16; Deuteronomy 32:39; Acts 17:22-28; 1 Timothy 6:13.**

“Suicide and Eternity?” As mentioned, we have to be careful not to remember that a person may very well be suffering mentally, enough to take their life, and yet spiritually they remain a child of God. But we also need to be sure not to make the suicide of a Christian the “unforgivable sin.” What is the unforgivable sin btw? **Check Matthew 12:22-32.** Some will say however, “The person didn’t have time to ask for forgiveness!” Why is that not an issue? Consider what is said about Jesus in **John 1:29** and **Hebrews 10:1-14.**

“Alzheimer’s and the Lord’s Supper?” When we consider who should and should not receive the Lord’s Supper, we can only really turn to **1 Corinthians 11:17-30**. Right reception of the Lord’s Supper happens when a person recognizes that the Body and Blood of Jesus are truly present with the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins. So...a person needs to understand this Sacrament cognitively and not just by faith. Therefore, great caution must be exercised when giving the Lord’s Supper to anyone, including those with cognitive impairments. Having said that, we also need to exercise great amounts of grace and mercy as well!

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What was the biggest take away from this study?

What part of this study do you still not understand? What questions do you still have?

How would you explain the thrust of this study to a friend?

How did the lord use this study to encourage your faith?