

The Presbyterian Church (USA), standing squarely within the Reformed Tradition, always has maintained that the Bible alone is our authority for faith and practice.

Our church also has said that the Bible is its own best interpreter. For this reason we simply lay out for you what the Bible says about many of the important questions that arise within the debate over abortion.

I. OUR CREATOR

Who is the creator of all life?

Who created each one of us?

JOB 10:8-12 • Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity; yet You would destroy me. Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk, and curdle me like cheese, clothe me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews: You have granted me life and favor, and Your care has preserved my spirit. (NKJ)

PSALM 119:73 • Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments. (NRSV)

II. GOD, THE UNBORN, AND THE CHILD

Is God involved in our development within the womb?

JOB 31:15 • Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same One fashion us in the womb? (NKJ)

PSALM 139:13-16 • For You have formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them. (NKJ)

Is God concerned about us in our unborn (fetal) state or only after birth?

ISAIAH 40:11 • He will feed His flock like a shepherd: He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young. (NKJ)

PSALM 22:9-10 • But You are He who took me out of the womb; You made me trust when I was on my mother's breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From my mother's womb You have been my God. (NKJ)

JEREMIAH 1:5 • Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; and I ordained you a prophet to the nations. (NKJ)

Do We Know When Our Spirit Enters Us?

ECCLESIASTES 11:5 • As you do not know how the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God Who makes everything. (RSV)

Is the Fetus a Human Being?

JOHN 15:21 • (Jesus) A woman when she is in labor has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers her anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. (NKJ) NB: "child" is translated from the Greek word, *anthropos*, which means "human being".

What is God's relationship to children?

PSALM 127:3 • Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward. (NKJ)

"...God..set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace...."

• Paul, in Galatians 1:15

III. LIFE OR DEATH—OUR RIGHT TO CHOOSE?

Does God give us a choice between life and death? What is his choice for us? What is the end result of an abortion?

EXODUS 20:13 • You shall not kill. (RSV)

EXODUS 23:7 • Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked. (NKJ)

DEUTERONOMY 30:19 • ...I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live....(NRSV)

IV. EVERY WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CONTROL HER OWN BODY—FREEDOM TO CHOOSE?

Does every woman have the right to control her own body? Is it her own body? Does the definition of every woman include the female fetus?

EZEKIEL 18:4 • As sure as I am the Living God, the sovereign Lord...the life of every person belongs to me, the life of the parent as well as the child. (TEV)

1 COR. 6:19-20 • Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? (NKJ)

1 PETER 2:16 • Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. (NKJ)

V. THE HARD CASES -- THE HANDICAPPED, RAPE, AND INCEST

Who is the creator of the "Unwanted," "Handicapped," the "Mistake"? Are these cases justifiable reasons for abortion?

EXODUS 4:11 • So the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord?" (NKJ)

ISAIAH 45:9-11 • *Woe to the man who fights with his Creator, does the pot argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with him who forms it, saying “Stop, you’re doing it wrong!” or the pot exclaim, “How clumsy can you be?” Woe to the baby just being born who squalls to his father and mother, “Why have you produced me? Can’t you do anything right at all?” Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, Israel’s Creator says: “What right have you to question what I do? Who are you to command me concerning the work of my hands?” (TLB)*

Should the innocent pay for the sins of others? Who are the innocent in a pregnancy resulting from rape or incest, and is abortion acceptable in these cases?

DEUTERONOMY 24:16 • *The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers. (NKJ)*

VI. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE UNBORN, THE WOMAN IN CRISIS, AND OUR GOD.

PROVERBS 24:11-12 • *Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds? (NKJ)*

PROVERBS 21:13 • *Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard. (NKJ)*

Must the church take a stand?

REVELATION 3:15-16 • *I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then because you are lukewarm, and neither hot or cold, I will spew you out of My mouth. (NKJ)*

Is abortion the solution to crisis pregnancies?

PROVERBS 14:12 • *There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. (NKJ)*

Presbyterians and Abortion: What Does The Bible Say?



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