

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: Where do you stand on abortion?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. This discussion opens with the statement that this is both simple and complicated.

A. The simple: human life is being terminated in the womb.

i. Human life is sacred before God. (Gen 1.26,27; Gen 9.5,6)

ii. Mankind has no right to terminate that which God has created. (Ps 139.13-16; Ps 100.3; Gen 9.5,6)

B. The complicated: is abortion murder?

i. How is murder defined? (the killing of a human being by another with malice)

ii. Malice = wrongful intent to take life; no justification; no excuse

C. Based on item b it is, in a sense, correct that abortion is murder (legalized or not). Discuss.

D. However, does murder carry a penalty? Typically, what is it? (Lev 24.17-22; Num 35.16-21, 29-34)

i. If so, are the active anti-abortion protestors (or any one who is opposed to abortion) willing to punish the woman, the medical assistant, or both?

ii. Is abortion equal to murder with a weapon?

iii. Should the penalty be the same?

iv. Are they both criminal?

2. Would you defend and/or support the statement: The plain fact is human life taken wrongfully in the womb should not be tolerated. Why or why not? What support or evidence would you offer? (Ps 139.13-16)

3. "Wrongful death" is characterized as a civil (as opposed to criminal) context. What was the example of wrongful death in the womb as caused by another human? (Compare with Ex 21.22-25).

A. In this factual/legal example, when do the courts acknowledge "life"? (at the earliest stages of the fetus).

B. Is it accurate, then, that on the one hand "the law" acknowledges that there is life in the womb and that it can be taken wrongfully?

- C. Yet “the law” also says that an abortion (of whatever it is in the womb, supposedly it is the same thing?) is lawful. How does the perception change from wrongful death to a woman’s right to choose.
- D. How can these two positions be true at the same time?

4. What is presented that is really at the heart of this topic?

- A. Choice?
- B. Something else?
- C. Does choice boil down to this: I can do (I have choice!) whatever I want to do. Period. End of story. I can do anything with my body. (2 Tim 3.2)
- D. Is there “a line in the sand” about doing anything I want to do? Why or why not?
- E. In the case of abortion, is an unborn child a victim?

5. What is the reason or purpose given that most abortions occur?

- A. Is it really a backstop to guarantee sexual freedom without consequences? Discuss.

6. Is it somewhat accurate to say that very few topics or issues are singular or exist all by itself?

- A. This discussion seems to offer two “packages” or “mixtures” of things that are occurring all at the same time. See if you agree or disagree.
  - i. Not just about killing an unborn child;
  - ii. But also the desire to have complete and unrestricted license for sexual freedom;
  - iii. And that unrestricted action (to include sex) has always been a touchstone of a culture that worships individual freedom – I can do what I want to do. Period.
  - iv. To what extent has the United States’ notion of individual freedom abetted this thinking?
- B. Abortion package one:
- C. Abortion package two includes all three things above and adds homosexual freedom. Why does abortion support homosexuality?
- D. Discuss.

7. Consider Matthew 18.1.6 and 19.13-15. Passages that many people look to regarding value of children. Is this of any value in this discussion?

8. Consider Paul's discussion with Timothy in 1 Tim 4.1-5. Note that the context is apostasy and the resulting hardening of hearts and conscience. What types of behaviors would we expect to see from such hearts?

A. Discuss verse 4 and the attribute of 'good'.

B. Is there any connection with Ps 139.13-16 and 1 Tim 4.1-5?

9. Additional study: 2 Peter 2 in its entirety is perhaps one of the darkest chapters in the bible. It centers on false prophets and teachers. Verse 2 starts "And many will follow their sensuality...". Read verses 10-14.

A. What is the Lord's church teaching on abortion and other "social" topics?