

REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE

**The American Culture's Influence on the Christian's Perspective of Abortion**

based on

Love Thy Body Chapter 2: The Joy of Death

Submitted to Dr. John Tweedale

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STH203FYO

The Doctrine of Man

by

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## Introduction

Former abortionist Bernard Nathanson, in his autobiography, recalled the details of killing his own child by abortion:

“What is it like to terminate the life of your own child? It was aseptic and clinical...When the cervix was dilated to the desired diameter, I placed the hollow plastic cannula into the uterus and with a nod to the nurse indicated that I wished the suction to be turned on...As an integral part of the procedure, every abortionist must examine the material in the gauze bag to assure that *all* the pregnancy tissue has been evacuated - to be certain none had been left behind...You ask me if perhaps for a fleeting moment or so I experienced a flicker of regret, a microgram of remorse? No and no. And that, dear reader, is the mentality of the abortionist: another job well done, another demonstration of the moral neutrality of advanced technology in the hands of the amoral.”<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Nathanson is above describing a surgical abortion, which accounts for a significant amount of the abortions committed in America. Abortion by pill, however, is rapidly increasing, and now accounts for 39% of all abortions in America.<sup>2</sup> Another former abortionist, Dr. Anthony Levatino, describes a medication abortion (abortion by pill):

“When RU-486 [the abortion pill] blocks progesterone, the lining of the mother’s uterus breaks down - cutting off blood and nourishment to the baby, who then dies inside the mother’s womb...the woman will often sit on a toilet as she prepares to expel the child, which she will then flush. She may even see her dead baby within the pregnancy sac. At 9 weeks, for example, the baby will be almost an inch long, and if she looks carefully, she might be able to count the fingers and toes.”<sup>3</sup>

This baby is starved to death by his mother, who willingly took the pill that starved him, and then flushed him down the toilet. Not including abortifacient birth control, which is difficult to

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<sup>1</sup>The Hand of God, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, page 61.

<sup>2</sup> Induced Abortion in the United States, Guttmacher Institute, <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>.

<sup>3</sup> Abortion Procedures, Dr. Anthony Levatino, <https://www.abortionprocedures.com/>

track, the number of abortions committed in America in 2017 was 862, 320.<sup>4</sup> That many individual babies, made in the image of God, and murdered in the place of the incarnation.<sup>5</sup>

Is abortion important for every individual Christian to understand and to act on? Yes. The culture of death has trickled into our churches, because so many Christians have said or done nothing. We have unconsciously chosen to believe certain things about abortion issues that stem from cultural ideologies rather than from the Word of God. The American culture has unbiblically influenced the average American Christian's view of abortion, and because of this, we must retrain our brains to think biblically regarding these issues. As C. R. Cali said in his book *The Doctrine of Baalam*, "...the holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. God has spoken to us all, through the text of Scripture, on every aspect of our lives as Christians." Every. Aspect. That includes abortion. We must "...take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Cor. 10:5b)

### **How We View Actively-Aborting Mothers**

In a March 2016 press release, National Right to Life President Carol Tobias stated, "Unborn children and their mothers are victims in an abortion. In adopting statutes prohibiting the performance of abortions, National Right to Life has long opposed the imposition of penalties on the woman on whom an abortion is attempted or performed."<sup>6</sup> When a woman chooses to pay someone to help her kill her baby, is she a victim? In many cases, the woman faces pressure from friends or family to commit abortion. However, this is not the same thing as

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<sup>4</sup> Induced Abortion in the United States, Guttmacher Institute, <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>.

<sup>5</sup> Abortion and the Incarnation with Songwriter Josh Malone: The Liberator Podcast #14, Free The States, <https://youtu.be/IOLSbWMFxFc>.

<sup>6</sup> National Right to Life: Punish Abortionists, Not Women, <https://www.nrlc.org/communications/releases/2016/release033016b/>

being forced. In rare cases, there are truly forced abortions, and the mother would be a victim in that instance. But when she is only being pressured, she is still responsible for preserving her baby's life. If the baby was 2 years old, we would not question this. But we have questions in our minds when it comes to whether the woman is a victim in abortion. Another argument for the mother being a victim is saying that she has been indoctrinated to believe her child is not really valuable.

One of the ways we have let the culture into our thinking in regards to this is the ideology of feminism. We don't typically view the father as a victim of pressure or indoctrination, even though he usually has a say in the abortion. Why do we not view him as a victim, if we view the mother as a victim? Is she any less intelligent? Believing the mother is the victim and not the father, actually is degrading to the woman, because it's saying that she isn't as responsible for her actions as the father. Humanism has also crept into our thinking: it's easy to believe the woman is a victim if you believe that people's suffering results from improper circumstances in their surroundings.

Instead of listening to the culture, we must look at the image of God in the woman. Instead of saying she didn't know, we must realize that she has the law of God written on her heart<sup>7</sup> and cannot use indoctrination as an excuse. She is totally depraved, and is responsible for her sin. God has anger towards child sacrifice.<sup>8</sup> "Victims are not guilty by virtue of their victimhood. Only the guilty are in need of forgiveness, and therefore in need of the Redeemer."<sup>9</sup> If we call her a victim, we deprive her of her need for forgiveness. We must show her the hard truth of what she has done, and tell her to look to Christ.

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<sup>7</sup> Romans 1:18-32

<sup>8</sup> Ezekiel 16:20-21

<sup>9</sup> C.R. Cali, *The Doctrine of Balaam*, page 42

## **How We View Post-Abortive People**

We have also let ourselves be influenced by the culture when viewing post-abortive mothers and fathers. As Christians, what should our response be when someone tells us they've committed or helped commit an abortion? Typically in American Christianity, we leave post-abortive counseling to the pro-life pregnancy centers. Many of these offer post-abortive counseling, but there is usually very little Gospel-focused counseling. The church has, by and large-handed off its responsibility to address this cultural issue to outside organizations. By not addressing abortion, the result in the church tends to be destructive:

“While claiming to be loving and compassionate towards post-abortive women, pastors...are in reality showing hatred for them and the men that led them there. The pastors are paving the way for continued sin in the church. In their refusal to stand on the word of God, the pastors are denying our Lord's power to forgive sins and heal His children...The women and men that led their children to the slaughter are themselves being prevented from approaching the throne of grace by cowards who are proclaiming peace, peace when there is no peace. By ignoring the gravity of sin, the congregation is hiding them in the comfort of the darkness of their sin, keeping them from both judgment and cleansing in the light of our faithful Savior.” (C.R. Cali, Doctrine of Baalam) <sup>10</sup>

The influence of the culture on American Christians regarding post-abortive people is 1) fear of man, 2) fear of addressing the issue may come from the belief that the woman is the victim, 3) avoidance of hard things. When we as a church don't want to deal with abortion, we are really preventing people from true healing by not giving them the biblical solution and telling them the truth. We are afraid of backlash. We are afraid of people leaving our churches. Fear of man.

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<sup>10</sup> C.R. Cali, The Doctrine of Balaam, page 154a

Historically, the church has risen up against abortion.<sup>11</sup> We must rise up again. While there is nothing inherently wrong with an organization that is dedicated to saving lives in danger of abortion, many mainstream pro-life organizations have more of a secular influence than a biblical one. The church must respond to its people. Tell them what they are. Tell them that they have murdered their baby. They need to come to terms with their sin, repent of it, and ask forgiveness. How can you repent of a sin you don't believe you have committed? Give them the Gospel. Tell them that Jesus freely offers hope and peace in Him and that He died for and loves all those who will come to Him. Plead with them to come to Him. If they are Christians and have had an abortion, give them the Gospel. Don't underestimate the power of the Gospel in healing from abortion. Be careful who you fund - make sure they are counseling biblically. Truth can sting, but it is necessary, and will ultimately heal.

### **How We Individually Fight Abortion**

Individually, we are influenced by the culture of death in multiple ways. "Christian families have adopted a model that looks more like the world than the prescriptions of God's word."<sup>12</sup> We think in short term goals in regards to abortion, but abortion is a result of the perversion of the family, and those who commit abortion are often from broken families. Often we do nothing about abortion. By doing nothing, we encourage the abortionists to continue. During the Holocaust, there was a group of young people who called themselves 'The White Rose', who wrote and spread leaflets on how to resist Germany's evil decrees regarding the Jews:

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<sup>11</sup> The Culture War, Jonathan Van Maren, pages 102-107.

<sup>12</sup> C.R. Cali, The Doctrine of Balaam, page 152

“Why do the German people behave so apathetically in the face of all these abominable crimes, crimes so unworthy of the human race? Hardly anyone thinks about that. It is accepted as fact and put out of mind. The German people slumber on in their dull, stupid sleep and encourage these fascist criminals: they give them the opportunity to carry on their depredations; and of course they do so...through his apathetic behavior he gives these evil men the opportunity to act as they do...”<sup>13</sup>

It is a result of selfishness that we as individuals generally do nothing about abortion. Again, we are afraid of man. We are afraid of what people will think of us if we rise up and fight abortion.

“Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.”<sup>14</sup> “Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, ‘Behold, we did not know this,’ does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”<sup>15</sup> “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>16</sup> “...children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”<sup>17</sup>

Let us rescue the little image-bearers. Let us use the talents God has given us to do what we can to fight this battle. Let us raise our families in the fear of the Lord, not the fear of man. Let us bring the Gospel into conflict with the culture of death.

“As the culture of death around you crumbles and implodes, be a beacon of light, sharing the hope of Christ while exposing sin as an indictment against them.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The White Rose, Inge Scholl, pages 78-79

<sup>14</sup> Psalm 82:3

<sup>15</sup> Proverbs 24:11-12

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 22:38b

<sup>17</sup> Psalm 127:3

<sup>18</sup> C.R. Cali, The Doctrine of Balaam, page 153

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, we must retrain our minds and our emotions to think biblically regarding the issues of actively-aborting mothers, post-abortive people, and individually fighting abortion. The ultimate answer is to show them the Gospel. Instead of following our natural flesh's impulses, we must follow the impulses of the new creature that we are in Christ. "...if we are going to love God supremely and to love other people sincerely, we are going to have to be sure that we are doing so in conformity to what God has commanded." - Tom Ascol

Let us never forget the implications of the image of God. Let us fight abortion His way. "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.'"



## **Bibliography**

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**Sorry I didn't have time to finish this**