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## How Do We Cope With Abortion?

**Galatians 1:15:** (NASB) *But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace...*

Freedom is a good thing. Freedom to choose, freedom to act, freedom of thought - these are all good things. Our society touts this right of freedom especially in the case of a woman's right to choose. Freedom though, without responsibility - this is NOT a good thing, for it takes the liberty of freedom and applies it with no boundaries - and without boundaries there can only be anarchy. So, what is the balance between freedom, responsibility and a woman's right to choose for the Christian? Does the Bible tell us?

First basic guideline: The Bible does NOT address abortion. There is no scriptural example or scriptural guidance that addresses the matter directly. Based on this truth, can we say that the Bible is pro-life or pro-choice? We believe that we can, but very much through a back door approach...through the principles in scripture that help us understand something the Bible doesn't address directly.

(Source: The Bible is Pro-Choice, by Joyce Arthur, excerpts only: [www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada/articles](http://www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada/articles) First published in "Humanist in Canada," No. 90 (Volume. 22, #3) autumn, 1989. Revised and expanded August 2001.) Most anti-choicers claim obedience to the divinely inspired word of God, so let's review their performance by taking a look at what the Bible has to say about abortion. Extremely little, actually, but what it does say appears to be in direct contradiction to the anti-choice stance. First, let's look at the Bible passages that anti-choicers generally cite to prop up their position. Incredibly, they rely mainly on just three that have nothing to do with abortion. Apparently, anti-choicers believe these vague passages say something significant about the status of the fetus, although it's impossible for any reasonable person to discern exactly what. The first such passage is found in Psalms 139:13-16.

Let us deal with the phrase "anti-choicers." Joyce Arthur is being firm and sarcastic in her perspective. Abortion is legal. We don't like or believe in abortion but abortion is legal and we have to respect it due to the legality. We wouldn't call her a "pro-deather." We need to stop with the name-calling! There is no sense in doing that.

**Psalm 139** was spoken by David - he was praising God for the miracle of life as well as giving a prophetic utterance concerning the development of the true church.

(Source: Bible commentator Albert Barnes:) *In the lowest parts of the earth:* Wrought in a place as dark, as obscure, and as much beyond the power of human observation as though it had been done low down beneath the ground where no eye of man can penetrate. All this passage states is that God is directly involved in the creation of a fetus and knows its future. This is useless for the anti-choice position, since God creates all living things, including trees and bugs. Plus, just because God is supposedly omniscient doesn't give fetuses any special status - it simply means God already knows whether they will live or die. It is dishonest to conclude from this verse that a fetus is a human deserving of more protection than women. The passage is poetic prose that anti-choicers have twisted and trivialized by giving it a literal, objective meaning where there is none.

Pro-lifers are *not* talking about giving a fetus more protection than women. They are talking about giving a fetus equal protection, the right to live!

 **Just a blob of tissue, Life after Abortion**

- *I lived in a crappy apartment and I drove a crappy car and I didn't even have a job. Who was I to raise a child?*
- *As the nurse was performing the ultrasound I watched her and she was looking at my baby on the monitor and I asked her, I said, "Can I see my baby," and she took the monitor, literally with her hands, and turned it away from me.*
- *And I turned to look at the screen and thought: that looks like a baby. Well, she got very upset and yelled at me and said, "turn around and don't you dare look at that!"*
- *I did not believe that it was a baby inside of me at the time.*
- *I was told it was a blob of tissue.*
- *They explained it to me that it was a blob. That it wasn't anything yet.*



- *But I needed to have this abortion as soon as possible before this blob of tissue turns into a baby.*
- *And she told me that it wasn't even a baby yet. That it was just a clump of cells.*

So, is there anything special about humankind above "trees and bugs?" **Genesis 1:26-28:** God said, "let us make man in our image." God creates man directly and individually. With all of the other creations He says, "Let the earth bring forth." The whole creation was different with mankind. The earth did not bring forth man. It is not all the same! How do we cope with abortion? We try to understand it. We try to understand the principles of the Scriptures.

### Is a fetus really just a blob of cells?

First "Back Door" Step in defining a biblical approach to pro-choice or pro-life:

- Acknowledge that humanity is a far different creation from the rest of the earthly creations. Mankind is a special creation. Animals will not be accountable for their actions. **Psalm 8:4-6:**

### The Bible is pro-choice, YouTube

- *It comes up again in Numbers chapters 35 verse 30, If anyone kills a person the murderer should be put to death on the evidence of witnesses, but later the Bible clearly states that killing a fetus is not punishable by death even if it is done against the will of the mother. Exodus chapter 21 verse 22 is the only passage in the entire Bible that specifically refers to a person causing the termination of a pregnancy: "When men strive together and hurt a woman with child so that there is a miscarriage and yet no harm follows the one who hurt her shall be fined according as the woman's husband shall lay upon him and he shall pay as the Judges determine." So murder is always punishable by death but killing a fetus is punishable by a fine. Obviously killing a fetus is much, much less serious than murder. According to the Bible abortion is not murder.*

Translators are very divided on the meaning of the text quoted above.

Here is a generic version: **Exodus 21:22-25:** (KJV) <sup>22</sup>If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her **fruit depart** from her, and yet no **mischief** follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. <sup>23</sup>And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, <sup>24</sup>Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup>Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

**Let's look into what this text is saying:** *Fruit* - something born. (Fruit has been used to describe what is in the womb and what is out of the womb, alive and well.) *Depart* - to go out, come out, exit, go forth *Mischief* - hurt

The above scripture is too ambiguous to *clearly determine* that death was the penalty for causing the death of a pregnant woman's child. *Mischief* can easily apply only to the mother or both. We *lean* towards it applying to both mother and child.

Why the tendency to see this verse as focusing on *both* mother and child?

1. The fact that it is so vague implies a broader application;
2. The word for *fruit* is mostly translated *child*;
3. The Old Testament view of children was that they were sacred and wanted - having lots of children was a measure of being blessed; and
4. There were no descriptive differences between a pre-born baby and a live baby in Scripture.

(Source: The Bible is Pro-Choice, by Joyce Arthur, excerpts only: [www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada/articles](http://www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada/articles)) ...Some conservative Biblical scholars have disputed the translation of the word "miscarriage" in the Exodus 21:22-25 passage, claiming it means "premature birth." This is indefensible, however. First, the original Hebrew word is "yatsa" which literally means to "lose her offspring". Second, premature births in the ancient world resulted in almost certain death for the fetus/infant, since only modern medicine can save premature babies. Third, other scholars have shown that the passage was derived directly from more ancient pagan laws, which clearly referred to miscarriage.

Whoa - not so fast...this word in question, *yatsa*, is used over 1,000 times in the Old Testament and means "out" or "brought" or "come" or "go," etc. Also, in reading the actual source of Arthur's comments, she is taking a *suggested approach by some scholars* and making it a firm



truth, while entirely skipping a paragraph that presents the other point of view - a sad lack of integrity. Truth doesn't need to be exaggerated; it just needs to be stated.

(Source: The Bible is Pro-Choice, by Joyce Arthur, excerpts only: [www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada/articles](http://www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada/articles)) The second passage used by anti-choicers is similar: "Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you'..." (Jeremiah 1:4-5) Unfortunately, anti-choicers usually stop right there, and forget the rest of Verse 5, which negates their preferred meaning: "...and I appointed you a prophet to the nations." This passage is specific to one, very special person—Jeremiah the prophet, whom God has called to provide miraculous powers and authority to the world. Since we are not all destined to be divine prophets, this verse cannot be construed as applying to any fetus except the unborn Jeremiah. Again, anti-choicers are being dishonest by pulling this verse totally out of its context.

**Jeremiah 1:4 -5:** This text simply states that God can see unique value and individuality in any human at any stage!

Second "Back Door" Step in defining a biblical approach to pro-choice or pro-life: Acknowledge the context of Scripture - not just the immediate context but the big picture context as well.

 **Problems after the procedure, *The Abortion Doctor (former abortion doctor)***

- *We've learned that abortion hurts women, that women are more likely to have a preterm delivery following an elective abortion. They're more likely to have depression and suicide. There are serious risks of having elective abortions. Some women never get over it. Women develop problems having gone through this elective procedure and I think in a woman's heart she knows that's a unique human being that's not just a piece of tissue.*

**Deuteronomy 12:22-23:** (NKJV) <sup>22</sup>Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. <sup>23</sup>Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, **for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat.** The essence of life is in the blood! Life is in the blood - a mother's blood nourishes her own body - every one of her organs depends upon her blood to keep it alive and any "blob of tissue" in her body is nourished by HER blood. A mother's blood NEVER nourishes an embryo directly. That tiny little being **DEVELOPS ITS OWN BLOOD** and any mixture of the two can be deadly! So, for a woman to say that she should control her own body is technically excluding the embryo, for it is its own body and its own blood. **Mother and baby can have two different blood types.**

 **Jane Roe, *Abortion 22 Weeks***

- *Most of you won't recognize me or my real name. It's Norma McCorvey. I am also known as Jane Roe the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case Roe vs. Wade which legalized abortion in America and changed our nation in a unprecedented way. I have had three daughters and never have had an abortion, however upon knowing God I realized that my case, which legalized abortion on demand, was the biggest mistake of my life. You see abortion has eliminated 50 million innocent babies in the U. S. alone since 1973. Abortion scars an untold number of post-aborted mothers, fathers, and families too. You read about me in history books but now I am dedicated to spreading the truth about preserving the dignity of all human life from natural conception to natural death.*

Third "Back Door" Step in defining a biblical approach to pro-choice or pro-life: Now, the biggest reason the Bible cannot be pro-choice: Ever since the feminist movement began, the Bible has been a target because women in the Bible were never given choices over their lives - they were always subject to men. What makes anyone think that they could have remotely stood a chance of being able to choose to terminate a pregnancy? Further, find one instance of any woman in the Bible who balked against having children! It was never a thought to abort them. Where there is a life that has begun, God expects us to be responsible for that life.

**Job laments his misfortunes and uses the example of the death of an infant, both before and after birth:** Job 3:11-17 Job 10:18-19: Again - value! The stillborn is buried, respected and remembered.

 **My desire to end abortion, *The Abortion Doctor***

- *And I was guilty of adding to that concept because that's what I explained. I said "it's just a piece of tissue." I could not allow myself to think of that as a unique human being, as a life, because obviously the next train of thought was, "I am killing a life." I can't deny that I did the procedures here. I was the main abortion provider during those years and it's my desire to end abortion on demand in South Dakota.*



### Should a teenager be allowed to have an abortion without parental consent?

**Example:** Suppose your daughter is 15 years old and she gets an infection in her leg. The doctor says we have to amputate your foot. Do you think for one second that the doctor would not get parental consent? He would be sued if he did that surgery without parental consent. Why? It's her body! Why shouldn't she be allowed to make the choice? It doesn't make sense that surgery has to be through parental consent in all areas, except for in this one thing. Why?

Forgiveness is available. Bring it before God. Expect forgiveness for your repentance. Don't allow yourself to be swallowed up in grief. Let the forgiveness of God overwhelm your life. Learn how to move forward one day at a time.

### Is there any way we can be pro-choice?

**The account of the prophesied birth of Sampson:** Judges 13:3-5: This text shows us the *sacredness of pregnancy* and helps us understand that *what the mother does while pregnant will affect the unborn child*. Again, we see *value* in the unborn. They are not some mass of cells, but they are a developing personality. The DNA is there. What a mother does while she's pregnant will affect the unborn child. The mother protects, feeds, nurtures and defends the unborn child.

These women were faced with a situation where they are living that regret and pain. The answer is seeking forgiveness. The Apostle Paul was a murderer and he was used and greatly and mightily by God. So, if you have fallen into a situation where you look back on and feel it was wrong, ask for and live forgiveness. When you destroy that which you were built to protect, we think there has to be an adverse effect. **Please see the FULL EDITION REWIND Bonus Material for more on this topic.**

**Redefine the application to the "pro-choice" stance as follows:** A woman's body IS her own and except for the covenant of marriage, in which she promises a mutual sharing of bodies with her husband, it should always be solely under her jurisdiction. Here are her choices - each of which has consequences and results, for which we MUST assume responsibility. To proceed without the acknowledgement of the responsibilities is to ignore reality.

### There are three ways to live life:

1. To remain single and unattached - a "chaste" virgin before God. No sex.

Consequences and results: Potential loneliness (and therefore potential temptation), no children, *potential stronger focus on God and potential better service to others*.

2. To remain single and unattached - but to lead a sexually active life.

Consequences and results: Potential diseases, potential pregnancy, potential loneliness. When you choose to have sex without the safety net of marriage, *you therefore MUST choose to assume full responsibility for whatever the outcomes!*

3. To marry and thereby follow the ages old God-sanctioned arrangement.

Consequences and results: Potential difficulty in getting along and potential unhappiness. *Potential fulfillment, children and potential strength of unity that is far greater than the sum of its parts.*

**Another example of valuable and individual life before birth:** Luke 1:39-44: Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it's not there. The Bible as a whole shows a respect for the unborn and for the process of fetal development.

### What if you aborted your child? What do you do?

Psalms 103:8-13: God is abounding in loving-kindness! The key is reverence for God. You can't unlock the loving-kindness without the reverence. 1 Corinthians 10:13 Matthew 12:20: God understands. If you have made a mistake and have done something that you regret, ask forgiveness. Repent of that sin and difficulty. Be vulnerable! Children are a blessing. God is pro-life! Psalms 127:3-5 Psalms 128:3-4

Jeremiah, in his lament over his life, expresses his prenatal existence as life that can be killed: Jeremiah 20:15-17

*So, how do we cope with abortion?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*