

Abortion

Today's topic is abortion. This has been such a major issue since 1972 when abortion was legalized. I realize that this is a very controversial and emotional issue. We will seek to address this today like we do with every issue: present the truth in love with compassion.

I really encourage people to call today. You as the listeners make this show what it is. The lines are open. Call with a question, a comment, or a testimony. Perhaps you have personally been affected by this area: men and women.

Stats:

- Since 1972 we have averaged over 1 million abortions each year.
- With modern technology and ultrasound it has made the information about the fetus more and more interesting. We know more than ever about the development of the fetus in the mother.
- We have some very contradictory laws such as: abortion is legal and yet if you kill a pregnant woman you can be charged with double homicide.

See other sheet

Once again, like with everything we deal with on this show, the bottom line is not what is legal or what does so and so say or what feels good but rather what does God's Word say. The bible is our final authority and what we will be eternally held accountable to.

Steve: So, P. David, what does the Bible say about abortion? Is the word abortion even in the bible?

No but it doesn't need to because the bible clearly speaks of the child within the womb being a person, created by God. For example:

Ps 139:13-16

13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
16 your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Jer 1:4-5

4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying,
5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Gal 1:15-16

15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased
16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles

Gen 25:21-23

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. 22 The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

23 The LORD said to her,
"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger."

Luke 1:39-41

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Gen 1:27

27 So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Life is so precious that God says:

Gen 9:6

6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made man.

Blood is shed during an abortion

Ex 20:13

13 "You shall not murder.

Steve: So, you are pro-life? Why are you pro-life and what does this mean?

Why I am pro-life:

1. God is about life and not death.
2. God's word affirms the life of the unborn.
3. Medical science affirms the life of the unborn.
4. Abortion causes women to suffer.
5. Abortion seeks to avoid the consequences of our behavior, for the woman and the man.
6. Adoption is a better option.
7. Forgiveness is available to all.

It means you are for life from conception to the grave and pro-life for all who sin and need forgiveness.

Steve: Is there such a thing as post abortion stress syndrome (PASS)?

You bet. Many woman have suffered in the form of:

- guilt
- nightmares
- infertility

Main Symptoms

They don't all occur to every woman, and they occur at different 'times' in the post abortion period. Some women become distraught immediately, others are in a numbness period for a while, some are just vaguely uncomfortable until a friend or neighbor becomes pregnant, or until they marry 10 years in the future, and go to start their 'planned' family. So a woman who feels 'just fine' after her abortion at 17 may have a whole different view on it at 27, when she begins trying to conceive. Also the 'intenseness' of each symptom varies from woman to woman. Here are some, and they have been confirmed over and over again by visitors at the site:

1. Fear and avoidance of doctor's & dentist's offices, any type of medical building or situation. Fear of doctor's offices in general and any invasive medical procedure - they can cause extreme anxiety, nausea, sweating, panic attacks, and other problems. Things that trigger this are: gyn exams, having blood drawn, dental or oral procedures, and tests involving hands or tubes or needles or anything put into your body. Feeling very 'protective' of your body, and not wanting anyone to touch you or come into your personal space for any reason.
2. Feelings of sadness and crying when seeing babies or children or pregnant women
3. Feelings of jealousy when seeing babies or children or pregnant women
4. "Anniversary Date" problems:
The Anniversary is usually one of three, or all three;
 1. The date the woman got pregnant
 2. The date of the abortion procedure

3. The would be 'due date' of the baby, had the pregnancy not been interrupted.
Anniversary Date problems can be: an unexplained lapse back into severe depression in the days before and after an Anniversary Date, illness on or around Anniversary Dates, Accidents and Injuries around Anniversary Dates, reoccurrence of any other regular PASS symptoms. Sometimes this can be unconscious - the woman doesn't think 'consciously' about an upcoming date being an "Anniversary", it's all subconscious, and just finds herself getting any of the above mentioned problems around an Anniversary Date year after year, with no other explanation for them. Even when women recover, Anniversary Dates can still be problematic.
4. Sleep Problems:
Having difficulty falling asleep, having difficulty staying asleep, sleep problems in general.
5. Dreams and Nightmares, featuring:
either a baby in danger that you can't help, or yourself in danger; common 'threateners' are people with knives, or medical people. Picturing yourself having a baby, or being with a baby or small child - various problems happen in these dreams, people try to take the baby away from you, or the baby or child is upset and won't look at you, or other people are telling you what you have to 'do' with the baby, commonly like it needs surgery that you don't want it to have, ect. These occur frequently, nightly for some women, weekly for others, monthly or only on 'anniversaries' for others. These dreams can be quite upsetting, and can contribute to the sleep problems.
6. 'Replacement Baby' feelings:
- the strong urge to go out and get pregnant again, preferably with the same man, but in this urge, any man will do, and 'keep' it this time. This urge is present, even when all the reasons or situations that influenced women to choose an abortion the first time are still in place. Many of the women at my site have done that, and then were surprised to find that they actually felt 'worse' about the abortion because of it! And that's because 'replacing' a baby is impossible - you still miss the one you 'lost' regardless of how many additional you have. But when that desperate urge hits, you can't realize that - it seems like if you just 'get pregnant again' and keep it, everything will be fine. The 'replacement baby' feeling can be very strong. Women can even go as far as to sneak behind their partner's back, and stop using birth control, or even get artificially inseminated, if the partner has had a vasectomy. Even if a woman does go and get immediately pregnant with a replacement baby, once the new baby is born, they have reported a return of the replacement baby urge right after birth!
7. Intrusion or 'Flashbacks':
"Intrusion" means the woman can involuntarily re-experience the abortion or events surrounding it - flashbacks to the clinic, to protestors, to the actual abortion procedure, and the hours afterwards.

8. **Numbing Out:**
"emotional constriction" or "numbing" - a need to avoid feelings, thoughts and situations reminiscent of the trauma, a loss of normal emotional responses or both. Their feelings can seem "unreal" to them, and the ordinary day to day business of life no longer matters. They feel cut off from the concerns of others, and are unable to trust them. It seems like the future holds nothing, and there's really no purpose for living. They numb themselves out, to protect themselves from possible future trauma. Alcohol, food and drugs can also be used as part of the 'numbing'.
9. **Anger:**
Depending on the stage, the anger may be weak and hidden, or it may be extremely intense and full blown. The anger may be towards themselves, or the people they perceive as responsible for their abortion, or both.
10. **Guilt and Shame:**
Women tend to feel guilt and shame about their abortion and they do not tell anyone about it, or talk to anyone about it, and will go to great lengths to prevent anyone from finding out about it, including lying to doctors, family and friends about having one.
11. **Isolating Themselves:**
They may be experiencing shame at their own helplessness to 'get over this', and then become demoralized and isolated, and withdraw themselves from activities they used to enjoy, and isolate themselves from friendships, and social situations. Isolating is very common, and also seems to come with depression.
12. **Sensitivity to pre-existing phobias:**
If a woman had certain phobias before, such as fear of heights, fear of thunderstorms, or fear of bugs, those fears and phobias can become more severe, with the woman being much more sensitive to these phobias than she was before.
13. **Eating disorders:**
Anorexia and compulsive overeating both have been noted by me (via website and surveys) to start after an abortion, where there was no history before. It seems that women are upset about what has transpired, and wish to 'punish' themselves subconsciously, for what they have done. Also there is a lot of stress associated with the whole idea of sex and pregnancy and abortion, and women have reported to me a need to feel 'unattractive', to avoid the possibility of a relationship, because in their traumatized state of mind, they think "Oh god, I'll get into a relationship, then my birth control will fail again, then I'll have to face another abortion, and this would just kill me", and so women find themselves either eating compulsively to swell themselves up and protect themselves from this problem, or to not eating at all.
14. **Easily startled and upset by:**
loud noises that resemble the suction machine, such as vacuum cleaners, and blenders. one woman reported to me that the first time she went to 'Starbucks' after her abortion, to get her favorite blended coffee drink, that

the sound of their blender made her sick to her stomach, and shaky and sweaty, and she ran out without even getting it!

15. Obsession with pictures of fetuses:

I call this the 'drive-by' part - it's like slowing down to look at a car wreck - you know it's going to horrify you, but you 'have' to see. At this stage, women become obsessed with what their fetus looked like, and search out pictures of a fetus that matches the age that theirs was, and stare at it, and imagine what it felt like when it was alive, and try to imagine if it heard or felt anything. Women have reported to me over and over again, that they feel compelled to look, to know, yet feel even worse afterwards! I have placed some links on my site to Medical Schools that have pictures like this online, so they can AVOID the prolife sites that show unnecessarily graphic pictures, as well as misrepresentations of what fetuses look like at different ages.

16. Relationship problems:

Having problems with relationships with your partner, lots of anger or other emotions interfering in your daily life and relationship, being unable to discuss and resolve these problems, and relationship problems with anyone else who was around or influenced your decision to have an abortion.

17. Difficulty Making Decisions:

Women have reported difficulty making decisions, being unwilling to make any decisions, being very upset by any changes such as moving, changing jobs. There is a panic that a 'wrong' decision might be made, and this can be a big problem. It can affect all kinds of daily small decisions, like what to have for dinner, what movie to get from the video store. A sense of panic sets in, and the woman feels frozen and paralyzed. One woman told me about breaking down with her b/f and crying in Blockbuster, because she couldn't handle even choosing a movie for the weekend.

18. Emotional numbness with regards to current children:

being unable to relate and bond properly with the ones that are here. Feeling like a 'bad mother', and feeling like the children would be better off without her interaction and influence.

19. Overprotectiveness of current children:

an almost hysterical worry about current children, constant fears that something will happen to them, as 'punishment' for having the abortion. This can lead to parents not being willing to leave the child with any babysitters, being overprotective about their physical health, and the activities they do.

20. Fears and overprotectiveness when pregnant again:

When a woman becomes pregnant after an abortion with a planned pregnancy, there can be a reoccurrence of nightmares, as well as constant fear and worry that something will 'go wrong' with this pregnancy, as punishment for the abortion. Fear of the baby dying, or having something wrong with it are common.

21. Comparison of pregnancies and/or children:
Looking at pregnant women, babies or children (depending on 'when' you had your abortion), and comparing yourself to where you would be in the pregnancy, had you kept it, or also comparing the baby or child to where 'your child' would be, if you had kept it. Looking at other children and thinking they look like what your child would have looked like.
22. Viewing miscarriage or infertility as 'punishment':
Feeling that future problems with infertility or miscarriages are 'punishment' for having had an abortion.
23. Suicidal feelings:
many women have problems for weeks, even months or years of struggling with suicidal feelings, feeling like they 'don't deserve' to be alive, and some report the urge to want to go 'find' the baby in 'wherever' and apologize to it, hold it, ect.. And just general suicidal feelings with the thoughts of being unable to cope with what has occurred.
24. Triggers of smells and food:
women have reported being unable to eat or having a panic/nausea/anxiety attack at the smell of food they ate on the morning of the ab, or from what they gave them in the recovery room afterwards. One woman told me she wants to vomit at the smell and site of graham crackers now, because that was what her clinic gave afterwards.
25. Sex problems:
this seems to go either way - fear of sex, and a terror of getting pregnant again, no desire for sex, and no ability to enjoy it, or else careless casual sex (which had not been the person's 'way of operating' before) having sex with anybody, not caring about birth control, and not caring if another pregnancy occurs.
26. Being distressed at having your period - it's a reminder of the abortion, lots of blood and cramps again, and no baby. Women with PASS seem to be very upset the first few times they have their period after an abortion. One woman who had had no problems before was terrified by the sight of blood, and had to keep getting in the shower 5 or 6 times a day to wash herself clean - she couldn't stand seeing or smelling and blood on herself.
27. Anxiety problems:
Having problems with anxiety, worry and nervousness, with no visible cause. Anxiety can be treated with medication. To assess your level of anxiety, you can try the screening test in the [Counseling Help Page](#)
28. Clinical Depression:
This is very common for women with PASS - the trauma of the whole experience, and the problem of not having readily available public support for her feelings and issues after an abortion can lead to clinical depression. Clinical depression should be treated with anti-depressant medication! To assess your own depression level, you can try the screening tests in the [Counseling Help Page](#)

Steve: Can a woman with some of these symptoms get healed

You bet. Through the forgiveness and love that Jesus offers. Perhaps someone would want to call now with a testimony

Steve: what about rape and incest?

Only 1% of abortions in this country fit this category. I know this is very sensitive and I cannot imagine the emotional pain of such a situation but for me this child is still a human being and regardless of how he/she was conceived it is still a life and must be protected. Furthermore, God can bring great good out of a child conceived under such circumstances.

Let's remember that Jesus would have probably been aborted in our day

Steve: Should the government make abortion illegal?

Yes, because it is the taking of a human life. We need laws that hold people accountable for sinful behavior. This is what government is for.