

'RE'DEFINED

life

INTRO:

- Briefly review...(June 2 Q&A)(not provocative, no offense, talking, etc.)

- What does God say? What does that mean for me? What does that mean for me in this culture?

*POLITICAL ISSUE?...On Thursday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his concerns to U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence about what he called the "anti-choice" movement. A total of 16 states introduced legislation this year to restrict abortion rights.

***This is a unique issue....**Sam Oosterhoff....**Assaults on our faith.....clarifies our faith.** The **hostility** of mission

"Back off my body, and the bodies of every other girl and woman in this country. Your personal moral objections to abortion – as sincerely held as they may be – do not trump our right to control our own reproductive organs. And if you can stand there and argue that we need to ban abortions without even attempting to tackle other issues? Well, you're not pro-life.

*You're **pro-fetus**.*

*Or maybe just **pro-control-of-people-with-uteruses**. And as I have no desire to become an Aunt or an **Unwoman** any time soon, I refuse to live in a world where privileged, entitled dudes get that kind of say over my fate – or that of my daughter."*

Julie MacCellan (Burnaby Now)

*"This culture problem is a huge one, because it's so pervasive it's almost impossible to figure out where it starts." (Julie MacClellan)

*Unplanned - not showing in Canada

- The "most" contentious, not convoluted, issues AND not all aspects of the abortion will be addressed today...TONIGHT!

The Bible: (our pursuit of clarity)

***Genesis 1:27** - "So God **created man** in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female."

Psalm 8:4-5 - "what is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him? **You made him little less than the heavenly beings** and crowned him with glory and honor."

***Job 31:15** - "Did not the one **who made me** in the womb also make them? Did not the same God form us both in the womb?"

***Psalm 22:10** - "I was given over to you at birth; you have been my God **from my mother's womb.**"

***Isaiah 49:15** - "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for **the child of her womb**? Even if these forget, yet I will not forget you."

Exodus 21:22-24 - compensation for injuring a child in its mother's womb

***Galatians 1:15-16** - "But when God, who **from my mother's womb set me apart** and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, so that I could preach him among the Gentiles"

***Job 10:8-12** - *"Your hands shaped me and formed me. You clothed me with skin and flesh, and wove me together with bones and tendons. You gave me life and faithful love, and your care has guarded my life."*

***Isaiah 44:2** - *"This is the word of the Lord your Maker, the **one who formed you from the womb...**"*

Ezekiel 16:20-22 & Deuteronomy 12:29-32 & Amos 1:13 - *God detests child sacrifice.*

***Psalm 78:5-7** - *"He established a testimony in Jacob and set up a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children so that a future generation—**children yet to be born**—might know.*

They were to rise and tell their children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works, but keep his commands."

- ("Do not murder...")

God is "pro-life" - ALL life because He is the creator of it. God creates us in His image, unique and with purpose, and it's through that uniqueness that we fulfill our purpose - to glory God - through that uniqueness. God says that in the womb we have uniqueness and purpose.....

*Also, this is an issue where the Bible and science actually agree.

The Science:

5 weeks: *(as early as)*

- The heart starts beating

8 weeks:

- suck their thumbs
- respond to sound
- Evidence that they are dreaming
- Recoil from pain (doctors use a needle to pull blood from the fetus he/she will pull it's heal up)(20 weeks women are given painkillers for an abortion - not for them but for the baby)
- Nervous system and a brain that receives signals
- All major organs are functioning
- Heart is pumping
- The liver is making blood cells
- Kidneys are clearing fluid
- There is a fingerprint

21 weeks:

- With a little help the baby can survive outside of the womb
- Nearly all of the 1 million abortions committed in North America last year.....happened after 21 weeks.

3-D sonogram: (technology - it helps!)

- Watch our babies smile at us
- **BUT...Is it a person?** Even if both sides, the right and the left/pro-life and pro-choice, concede a little.....and leave the debate saying it might be a person.....is that enough to kill it? I heard an excellent illustration pertaining to that: *hunting

with a friend....hear a rustling in the bushes....it might be a deer, it might be your friend.....do you take the shot???

1. Dr. Warren Hern, author of *Abortion Practice*—to a Planned Parenthood conference: “We have reached a point in this particular technology where there is **no possibility of denying an act of destruction**. It is before one’s eyes. The sensations of dismemberment flow through the forceps like an electric current.”

We don’t need anymore evidence to prove that this is a human being....a person alive in the womb. There is NO MORE evidence needed!

And yet.....abortion still exists.

But to add to that:

- Stalin killed 40 million of his own countrymen
- Hitler killed 30 million human beings
- In the US, since Roe vs Wade in 1973, there have been 55 million abortions....in the US alone.

And yet.....abortion still exists.

In Switzerland: Cooking live lobsters are banned because they feel pain (scream) when they are boiled live.

It is **illegal** to harm, harass, or **kill** any sea **turtles**, their **eggs**, or hatchlings.

And yet.....abortion still exists.

Planned Parenthood:

Millions of people face unplanned pregnancies every year, and about 4 out of 10 of them decide to get an abortion. Overall, 1 in 4 women in the U.S. will have an abortion by the time they're 45 years old.

Some of the many different reasons people decide to end a pregnancy include:

- They want to be the best parent possible to the kids they already have.

And yet...abortion still exists.

"It is wrong to **intentionally** kill an innocent human being. Abortion **intentionally** kills an innocent human being.

Therefore, abortion is **wrong**." (Scott Klusendorf, *president of Life Training Institute*)

So therefore it is not about the debate. It is not about whether the fetus is a person or not - I think this next quote will give us some insight...

*“Yet I know that throughout my own pregnancies, I never wavered for a moment in the belief that I was carrying a human life inside of me. I believe that's what a fetus is: a human life. And that doesn't make me one iota less solidly pro-choice. Here's the complicated reality in which we live: **All life is not equal**. That's a difficult thing for liberals like me to talk about, lest we wind up looking like death-panel-loving, kill-your-grandma-and-your-precious-baby storm troopers. Yet a fetus can be a human life without having the same rights as the woman in whose body it resides. **She's the boss**. Her life and what is right for her circumstances and her health should automatically trump the rights of the non-autonomous entity inside of her. Always.”*

“So What If Abortion Ends Life?” - Mary Elizabeth Williams

***The baby has its own DNA, it's own genetic code, it's own blood type, has its own functioning brain, functioning kidneys, it's own functioning lungs - IT'S NOT THE WOMAN'S BODY.....IT'S ITS OWN!**

*if someone you cared about called you and said they were thinking of committing suicide (thoughts) what would you say?
“Think about how this will affect me and other people around this

person's life **OR** rather should say that God has created you with passion, and uniqueness, and purpose."

Ultimately, the most controversial part of all these 3 weeks is not sexuality, gender, or abortion. It's submitting to the authority of God. **God is the authority! He, and He alone determines value!**

- priceless artwork.
- Salvador Dali "The Persistence of Memory": \$38,000
- Leonardo da Vinci "Mona Lisa": \$100 million
- Edvard Munch "The Scream": \$119 million
- Joseph Beuys "Gauze In A Box": \$10,000

Someone, some hierarchy of art counsel, deems this painting worth \$10,000. That's crazy to me! Some guy just painted 2 cardboard boxes and then stuck a piece of gauze, new or used, in the corner. I would say it's worth \$10....maybe.

But.....it's worth isn't determined by me. I don't decide what this piece of...art is worth. Because I don't decide what it's worth then the artist doesn't care what I think it's worth.

Because someone higher, the arts council or dealers (whatever), has determined its value. It doesn't matter what Todd thinks.....I don't determine someone's value.

It's the same with the abortion issue. God is that "something higher" and He, and He alone, determines a person's value....both in the womb and out of the womb:

"For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began."

Psalm 139:13-16

Practical steps:

Be disciplined! Have the courage to say what we know.....not what we think.

Disciple others: Psalm 78:5-7 - *"He established a testimony in Jacob and set up a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children so that a future generation—**children yet to be born**—might know. They were to rise and tell their children so that they might put their confidence in God and not forget God's works, but keep his commands."*

Go Visual: show the reality, cause people to think. *“Many people dislike abortion images and find them offensive. That’s to be expected, given the discomfort of admitting moral culpability in the face of injustice. The more pressing question is whether the number of people put off by the graphic images exceeds those compelled into modifying their beliefs.”* (Scott Klusendorf - TGC)

Never, ever forget the women who are involved: having an abortion is not the unforgivable sin. Where sins abound, grace abounds all the more.

We need to be compassionate advocates...*“Almost half of the women who procure abortions are **living under the federal poverty line**—and many cite financial scarcity as their primary reason for getting an abortion. Understanding this strain, and helping address it, should be an integral part of the pro-life cause—not just on a political level, but on a cultural and grassroots level. It should be a natural extension of the pro-life cause, which is determined to fight for the most vulnerable among us.”* (Gracy Olmstead - TGC)

***We are a voice for the voiceless AND also the compassionate care for the mom’s involved.**

Mark 10:46-52;

*"46 They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting by the road. 47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" 48 Many warned him to keep quiet, **but he was crying out all the more**, "Have mercy on me, Son of David!"*

49 Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called the blind man and said to him, "Have courage! Get up; he's calling for you." 50 He threw off his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

51 Then Jesus answered him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Rabboni," the blind man said to him, "I want to see."

52 Jesus said to him, "Go, your faith has saved you." Immediately he could see and began to follow Jesus on the road."

- Let's not get caught up arguing/debating with people who are (as Paul says to Timothy), *"people whose minds are depraved and deprived of the truth..."*
- **May our loudest voice be to Jesus** for his help and interference.
- Yes.....let's write letters to our MP's. Advocate in the public forum where we can. Let's discuss the facts and show the science BUT most importantly we need to be a praying people on this issue.
- Pray about it in every prayer!

