

Abortion And Current Events Sunday AM 02/10/19

I) Facts

* Up to 1973 abortion laws were determined by each individual state.

* In 1973 two court rulings changed all of that. Roe V. Wade and Doe V. Bolton.

A) **Roe V. Wade**

1. January 23, 1973 the United States Supreme Court ruled state laws prohibiting abortion were unconstitutional.
 - a. Norma McCorvey (Jane Doe) sued Texas Attorney general Henry Wade as Texas law only allowed abortions if necessary to save the woman's life.
 - b. A woman's right to have an abortion outweighs the states concern for prenatal life-up until the point of viability.
 - c. In the early stages of pregnancy, a fetus cannot survive outside the womb.
 - d. During this time the mother's liberty interest (choice to have an abortion if desired) outweighs the states interest in prenatal life.
 - e. At some point, the fetus can survive outside the womb (point of viability). Medical science in 1973 (24 to 28 weeks)

- f. From the point of viability, the court grants the state the greater interest.
 - g. From the point of viability the state's interest outweighs the mother's liberty interest (choice in abortion).
 - h. Before the point of viability the state cannot ban abortions based on the concern for prenatal life. After the point of viability, the state can.
2. Another decision handed down the same day, Doe V. Bolton defined a woman's health to mean physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and even the woman's age.
- a. Thus abortion is legal for the entire term of pregnancy.

B) The legal battle

- 1. After the last election a number of states have been concerned with the Supreme Court over turning or limiting the effects of Roe V. Wade.
- 2. Various states have sought to make it state law allowing abortion.
 - a. New York removed any penalty for having an abortion up to the point of birth. Governor Cuomo stated he is not about to legislate religion.
 - b. Virginia recently stated to make the same

changes in their state law. But it was voted down.

3. Other states have sought to protect the unborn child.
 - a. In Alabama election in 2018 the following passed.
 - b. A "yes" vote supported this amendment to make it state policy to "recognize and support the sanctity of unborn life and the rights of unborn children, including the right to life" and to state that no provisions of the constitution provide a right to an abortion or require funding of abortions.
4. Recently the Governor of Virginia, said There may be a fetus that's not viable. So in this particular example, if a mother's in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered, the infant would be kept comfortable, the infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired. And then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.

C) The cultural battle.

1. Pro-choice mantra. Abortions should be:
 - a. Legal
 - b. Safe
 - c. Few

2. Every baby born should be wanted and loved.

II) A Closer Look

A) Should abortions be legal?

1. Legal does not equal moral.
 - a. Pharaoh required the midwives to kill the male children of the Jews, *Exodus 1.15-16*
 - b. King Herod actively killed male children in Bethlehem and its surrounding districts, *Matthew 2.16*.
2. In some people's minds they equate legal with allowed but they are not the same. *Acts 4.19-20*.

B) Safe abortions (?)

1. By making abortion legal, women can go to doctors, and receive good medical attention.
2. We don't know the answer to that question. There are also complications from abortions that put the woman at risk in later pregnancies. There are also emotional and mental issues that may develop later on.
3. All abortions are unsafe for the child. I cannot think of another medical procedure that if performed as it should be, results in death of a life.

C) Are abortions rare?

1. From the CDC -

- a. Between 1970 to 2014 there have been nearly 44.5 million legal abortions in the U.S.
 - b. In 2014- 34% of all abortions were performed on women age 20-24. 27% on women age 25 to 29 which is 27%;
 - c. 46% of all abortions were women not married and not co-habiting, 75% on poor and low income women.
2. Compare this to other deaths.
- a. Auto deaths in 2017 were 32,133
 - b. Drug related deaths in 2017 were 70,237
 - c. Cancer related deaths in 2018 were 609,640.
 - d. Abortions per year is over 1 million, roughly 2,500 per day.

III) **Biblically Speaking**

A) The only difference in the child in the mother and after its birth is location and maturity.

1. *Ps. 139.13-16* describes the child inside the womb.
2. There is no doubt the "fetus" if allowed to live and be born will be human. *Genesis 1.24, 27-28.*

B) This leads to a diminishing the value of all human life. *Genesis 9.6,7*

1. Is the baby inside the womb not important because it lacks viability?
2. What about the person who has had a stroke? What about the person who due to age cannot live alone? What is the standard of "viability"?

Conclusion:

There is a difference in a medical procedure to protect life than to simply terminate a life. Our manner of living must live up to the Bible. There may be some difficult circumstances but we need to make sure we can say the Bible authorizes this action. Jesus died so we may eternal life with God. *John 10.25-30*

Other scriptures; *1 John 3.15*, murder condemned *Romans 1.29*; *Revelation 21.8*.