CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

WARM UP

1. If you could spend several hours with any current famous person who would it be?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. What verse or passage of scripture speaks the clearest to you about the value of life (Imago Dei)?

3. Many people believe that abortion should be prohibited except in the case of rape or incest. Based on Sunday’s sermon what position would you hold on these exceptions to abortion? (You may want to refer to Genesis 50:14-21)

* 1. A few things to consider:
     1. Genesis 50 clearly teaches that God has good and sovereign proposes through sin (think about the cross). To advocate for abortion in the case of rape or incest, says that you do not trust that God can bring good out of evil.
     2. A child who is the product of rape is no different than any other child. He is a unique and wonderful creation of God. His conception does not affect his personhood. (Psalm 139)
     3. Abortion leads to compounded guilt on top of the trauma of rape for the mother.
     4. Abortion doesn’t bring healing to the rape victim. Imposing capital punishment on the innocent child of a sex offender does nothing bad to the rapist and nothing good to the women. Creating a second victim never undoes the damage of the first.

4. In 2 Samuel 11-12 we find the record of David’s adulterous affair and the confrontation by the prophet Nathan. After David repented of his sin Nathan prophesied that although David would be forgiven the baby that would be born as the result of the adultery would die. Read David’s response to the death of his baby in 2 Samuel 12:22-23 and compare it to his response when he learned Absalom, his wicked son, had died in 2 Sam 18:33.

David morns for his infant while he is sick but does not morn for him when he dies, and David says that he will be with that child. But David clearly thinks he will be with God when he dies (Psalm 16:9-11). However, when Absalom dies David morns deeply, implying that he knows Absalom’s wickedness indicates his hatred of God and condemnation to hell.

5. Some use this passage in 2 Samuel 12 as assurance that babies go to heaven when they die. So, if we assume that any baby that dies goes to heaven then why should we oppose abortion?

Watch this video hear an excellent summary of this issue: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/if-babies-go-to-heaven-why-oppose-abortion>

1. Murder is Murder. God says do not murder and He massively values life in His word especially the innocent life of infants.
2. Where do you draw the line? It is a big deal to kill the unborn to try to justify murder by the heavenly destination of the one being murdered because the same justification could be used for a one-year old or a two-year old who are still incapable of processing and construing God’s revelation.
3. That logic means we should kill all Christians as soon as they believe in Jesus. It is a big deal to justify murder that way, by the heaven-bound destination of the one being murdered, because the same thing would be used to justify killing Christians. Let’s go out and convert people, then kill them quickly before they can commit apostasy or backsliding. It is horrible logic.
4. Only God has the right to give and take life! (Job 1:21)

6. Read Exodus 1:15-21. Do you think that this is a valid passage to use as a defense for opposing abortion? Why or why not?

A few notes on this passage from Pastor Clint:

* This text combines infanticide, with racial genocide, with gendercide.
* **birthstool -** the indication here is that this was at the very time of delivery (4 term abortion)
* Because the women knew and feared Elohim, they did not obey the command to kill the infants.
  + The point of this brief section is that the midwives respected God above the king. They simply followed a higher authority that prohibited killing. Fearing God is a basic part of the true faith that leads to an obedient course of action and is not terrified by worldly  threats
* **Give birth before the midwives come:** The indication is that once the babies were born they were no longer killed. That means that the original command to kill the boys was to be executed while the child was still in the womb or birth canal. That is abortion.
* **Therefore, God dealt well with the midwives:** The "therefore" here is a connection between the midwives refusal to participate in infanticide and God's blessing of approval on their actions - even though they disobeyed the Pharoh.
  + The fear of God motivated the women to protect infant life and God blessed that action.
* **So Pharaoh commanded...every son you shall cast into the river:** The natural progressions from abortion to full blown infanticide is on display here.
  + When life in the womb (birthstool) is not valued, life outside the womb is not valued either.
* God was fully in control of this act of abortion and infanticide. He was sovereign over the death of those babies!
  + **Romans 9:17** **(NKJV) —** **17** For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”
  + Even this deplorable act was God ordained and targeted at the display of His glory.

7. Case Study:

You have worked with Meg for several years and have become fairly good friends. You have had opportunities at various times to share your faith with Meg who always seems cautious but receptive. In addition to occasional spiritual conversations you have invited her and Eli, her husband, to church on various occasions and they just recently surprised you by showing up to special outreach event. Both Meg and Eli seemed to really enjoy the event and you are hoping that this will lead to their coming to a Sunday service.

Recently Meg announced to you and your co-workers that she is expecting her first baby. Everyone is excited and congratulatory but you notice that Meg doesn’t seem overly joyful. Later when you and Meg are alone you ask her if everything is ok. She begins to cry and tell you that besides discovering she is pregnant the doctor also revealed to her that she has cancer. The doctor explained that without chemotherapy her chances of living beyond a year would be very slim. He further explained that they could not give her chemotherapy unless she has an abortion.

Eli is insisting that she get the abortion but Meg is unsure. She then asks you what you think that she should do.

a) What would you say to Meg?

b) What passage of scripture could you share with her?

* + Some passages to consider:
  + Psalm 127:3–4 (NKJV) — 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.
  + God is the only one with the authority to give and take life (and delegate it)
  + Job 1:21 (NKJV) — 21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”
  + Psalm 104:29–30 (NKJV) — 29 You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. 30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.
  + Romans 8:28–32 (NKJV) — 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

c) How would Meg’s decision to go through with the abortion change your relationship with her?

d) How would Meg’s decision to not go through with the abortion change your relationship with her?

8. Having the biblical conviction that abortion is murder is one thing, and “getting into the fight” is another. What are some practical and realistic ways that you can get involved in the issue of abortion and actively be pro-life?

Some options mentioned on Sunday:

1. Donate to an abortion cause

2. Consider adoption

3. Get involved politically

4. Talk to people!