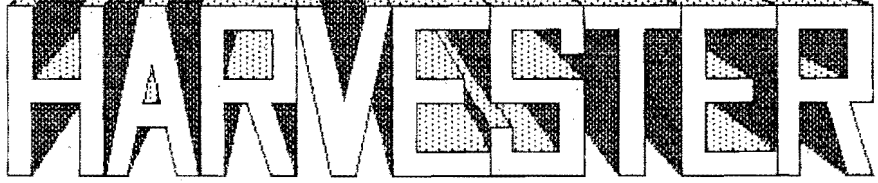


THE



HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

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WHERE DO YOU STAND ON ABORTION?

No matter how long I live I don't believe I will ever understand how anyone can condone abortion. How can anyone deny that it is the taking of a human life? How can they deny it is out and out murder of an innocent baby? The now infamous Roe vs. Wade decision of the Supreme Court just opened the flood gates to legalized slaughter. And what is so sickening is that in many states it is legal to abort a baby any time during the course of a pregnancy, not just in the first trimester as many people think. Even a baby that is just a few days away from birth can be killed in some states.

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My purpose here is not to waste a lot of space condemning those who favor abortion. Those people are obviously just godless barbarians, and I don't know if anything could ever be said to reach their cold and cruel hearts. What I would like to discuss is the hypocrisy among the majority of those who stand against abortion. I'm talking about the group of people who are normally referred to as "pro-life."

There are two main sides in this debate. There are those who favor murdering babies; they are referred to as "pro-choice." Then there are the anti-abortionists who are referred to as "pro-life." Which side should Christians take in this matter? Which side do you take? I personally stand totally opposed to both groups. After all, both groups condone the murder of innocent babies. Don't be fooled, if the pro-life group won out there would still be thousands of abortions performed in this country each year. I'll admit this is better than the millions which are currently being slaughtered annually. But is the murder of even one innocent baby acceptable? I definitely cannot accept it.

The "typical" position of those who call themselves pro-life is that abortion is wrong except for a few special cases. They say abortion should be allowed in the case of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is in danger. The basis of the argument which the pro-life side uses to condemn abortion as murder is the idea that life begins at conception. I personally agree with this idea, and I believe most Christians also do. It is then said, and correctly so, that to abort a fetus is to take a human life. In short they say abortion is the murder of a baby. They are right up to this point, but how can they then turn around and harmonize this idea with the aforementioned exceptions of rape, incest, and endangerment of the mother's

life? I mean if a fetus of any age is a human life, and it is, then how do these things justify its murder? And yes I've heard the arguments before. Well you wouldn't expect a woman to have a child by a man who had brutally raped her would you? But isn't that really just muddying the waters? The real issue is the murder of an innocent baby, not how it was conceived.

The Lord has said that *"The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father!"* (Ezekiel 18:20) Now certainly I do not condone rape, but why should that unborn baby suffer because of the acts of its father? The baby is totally innocent in this matter. If caught and convicted the father might serve a few years in prison, but the baby gets the death penalty! Is this justice? And again with incest I must reach the same conclusion. How does this justify murder?

The hardest point is what to do when the mother's life is in danger. It should first be mentioned that there is never a case where the doctors know with certainty that the mother will die. They just foresee possible problems if the baby is carried to full term. How much danger is too much? When does it become justifiable to abort the baby because of the risk to the mother's life? Who is qualified to make such a decision? Who is qualified to play God and decide who lives and who dies?

In this situation there are two lives involved, the mother and the baby. If the abortion is performed one of them will certainly die. If the baby is carried to full term one or both could die, but there is also the possibility that both could live. Again I ask, who but God has the right to make these type of decisions? Instead of turning to abortion people need to turn to prayer.

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Can you imagine going before a judge and explaining that you murdered your neighbor because someone else told you that he had threatened your life? What kind of a chance do you think you would have of getting off? Well how would you like to be a woman standing before the Judge of judges, Jesus Christ, and tell Him that you murdered the child He had blessed you with, simply because a doctor told you that having the child could endanger your life?

Friends, murder is never justified. The only time God has ever condoned the taking of a human life is in war or as punishment for sin. Does an unborn baby fit either one of these categories? And abortion is not only murder, but the most brutal form of murder. It's the murder of an innocent and totally defenseless baby. How can we say we are civilized in this country when we allow such things to happen? The best description I have ever heard of abortion is this: "Abortion ... the American holocaust!" The world wept and mourned as the Jews were mercilessly slaughtered by Hitler. But who will cry for the millions of innocent babies killed in this country alone each year? Where is the real holocaust? Abortion is murder, and is always wrong, regardless of the circumstances!

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. In what Philistine town given to him did David and his 600 men live?
2. On what did the people sit in the feeding of the 5000?
3. King Agrippa said that Paul could have been set free if he had not done what?
4. What happened to the widow's son in Zarephath, where Elijah was living during the drought?
5. According to the book of Esther, what filled Haman with anger?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Whose sons did God say would die on the same day? **ELI'S** (1 Sam. 2:34)
2. Who bore many people's sins in his own body? **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** (1 Pet. 2:24)
3. As a Christian, how should one treat strangers? **HOSPITABLY** (Heb. 13:2)
4. Who came first, Gideon or Samson? **GIDEON** (Judg. 6)
5. The second temple in Jerusalem was ordered to be built by what Gentile king? **KING CYRUS** (2 Chr. 36:23)

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of God.

Pascal

SOMETIMES WE NEVER LEARN

What do the following items have in common?
Be sure to read each one very carefully!

1. One member and his wife agreed to misrepresent the truth about a gift to the church. (Acts 5:1-11)
2. Another member was greedy and thought that the power of God could be bought with money. (Acts 8:12-24)
3. Some members taught others not to associate nor eat with "certain" men. (Acts 11:2-3)
4. A few members stated it was okay to do evil if some good came out of it. (Rom. 3:8)
5. Some members of the church practiced the doctrine of "once saved, always saved." They felt secure and that it was impossible for them to ever fall from God's grace. (Rom. 11:18)
6. Other members were guilty of judging, despising, and condemning others over issues of indifference. (Rom. 14:1-5)
7. Some members made "fair speeches" and yet caused division among the church because they preached another doctrine. (Rom. 16:17-18)
8. A whole congregation was split because everyone said they were "of" a certain preacher and wearing his name. (1 Cor. 1:10-12; 3:1-4)
9. Some members spoke of themselves in a boasting manner and thus, took away from the teachings of the apostles. (1 Cor. 4:8-21)
10. Other members of the church were guilty of the fact that they allowed immorality to remain among the congregation. (1 Cor. 5:1,2,6)

11. Some members took their matters against each other into the secular courts. (1 Cor. 6:1-8)

12. Several members of the church abused the Lord's Supper by not observing it properly. (1 Cor. 11:20-22)

13. Some female members took a leadership role in the Lord's church by not remaining silent. (1 Cor. 14:34,35)

14. Many members corrupted the Word of God by false writings and false teachings. (2 Cor. 2:17; 2 Cor. 11:4; Gal. 1:6-9)

15. Some members used themselves as a standard for comparison and said, "Why can't you be more like me?" (2 Cor. 10:12)

16. One member loved material things better than spiritual things. (2 Tim. 4:10)

17. Some members showed partiality by treating the rich with more honor and respect than they treated the poor. (Jas. 2:2-3, 6)

18. And one member demanded pre-eminence in ruling the congregation. (3 John 9)

What did all these items have in common? They were sins committed by members of the church in its early days. Amazing, isn't it? But what is even more astounding is that today many members of the Lord's church are still practicing these same exact sins! All through our lives we have recognized these sins about 'other' people. These occurred in Bible times, a world so very distant from ours of today. Or is it? The world may have changed a bit, but the sins are still the same. Sometimes we never learn.

