

First Wednesday – Life

March 2, 2016

Pastor Allen Holmes

1 John 3:4, Sin is lawlessness. Satan will live under know law. Satan has been trying to destroy morality from the beginning. As long as we uphold a moral standard we will be hated by Satan and those under his influence whether they know they are under his influence or not. We must uphold the standard, in grace, love, and a willingness like Christ to lose everything.

Genesis 9:5-6, "I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. Any anyone who murders a fellow human must die. If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image."

All life has value because it reflects the image and glory of God.
Abortion, Euthanasia, and Capital Punishment

Abortion: What does the Bible say?

Luke 1:41-44

Psalm 139:13

Genesis 25:22-23

Exodus 21:22-25 (*Higher value than any other human life, Exodus 35:9-15, 22-29*)

Common Objections:

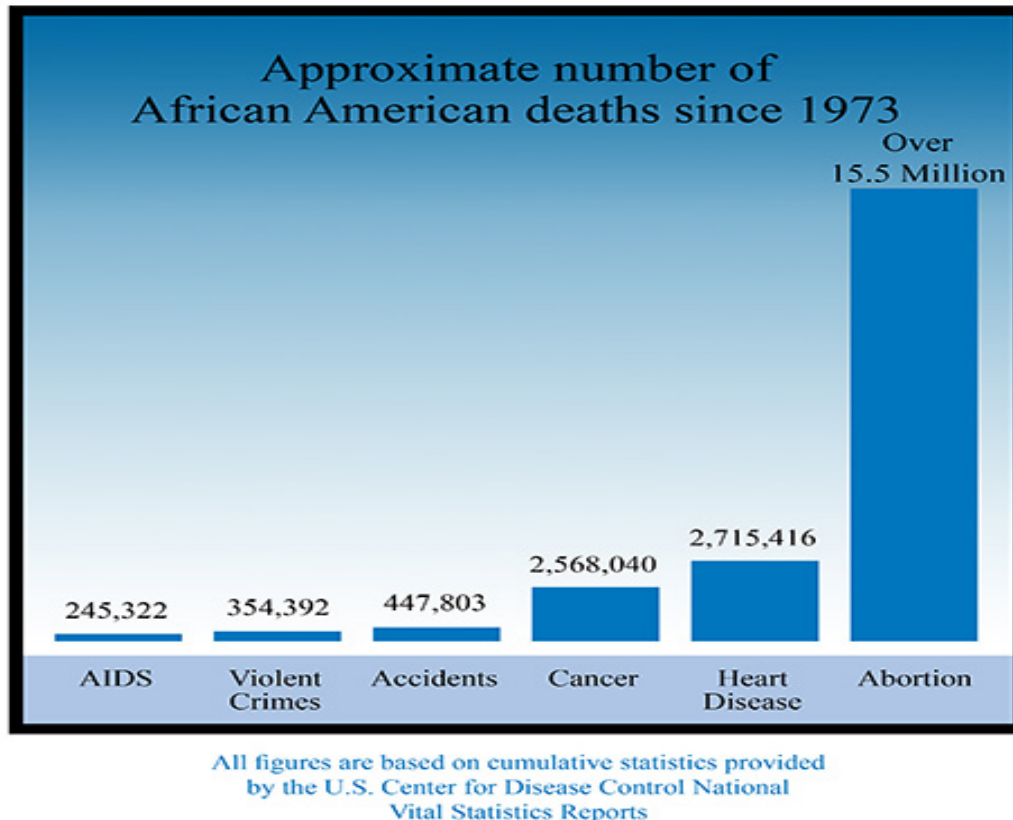
- Unable to survive on its own. Would it be ok to kill an infant after it was born?
- Birth Defects. Misdiagnosis. Would it be ok to kill a baby with defects after it was born?
- Pregnancies due to rape or incest. Less than 1%. Would it be ok to kill the baby after it was born? James Robinson- his mother was raped
- Life of the mother is in danger. .118%, Different because you have two lives and I you protect the life of the mother.
- In an article entitled *Why Women Chose Abortion*, Linda Lowen discovered that 75% of women said they could not afford a baby.
- Women have rights? Does that right include taking the life of their child and if so why should that right be limited to pre-birth?
- I am against abortion but do not believe I should put those beliefs on other people. Again, if this is true shouldn't parents be allowed to kill their children?

The real issue is this: Are the unborn children or blobs?

Practically speaking:

In America we have aborted 58 million children. They would all be consumers which helps the economy. We may have aborted great scientist, doctors, artist, pastors, maybe the President. We have a shrinking birthrate, and working class and a growing elderly class and abortions certainly contribute to this problem.

Dehumanizing: Planned Parenthood- Planned Parenthood sales the parts of aborted children and has been doing so for years and it is not illegal. The videos simply reminded us how terrible, inhumane, and brutal this practice is. Type in: Planned Parenthood and racism.



Recommendations:

1. Roe vs. Wade should be overturned. It was an overreach by the courts and would never fly today with the scientific information that we have. The only way this can happen is for conservative minded Supreme Court justices be appointed.
2. The Government should not provide tax dollars, to support "family planning groups" here or in other countries that provide abortions.
3. The Government should not create human embryos for stem cell research

Euthanasia- Greek meaning good death

Should the government make laws against intentionally taking the life of the elderly or terminally ill?

2 Samuel 1:1-16

- Saul appears to be terminally ill with no reasonable hope of recovery. He had fallen on his sword in an attempted suicide. (1 Samuel 31:4-5)
- Saul was in extreme pain.
- Saul clearly made this request.
- Saul was the head of government, he was king.

- However, David killed the man for murdering Saul.

Killing vs. Letting Die

It is ok to use Morphine to alleviate suffering.

Slippery Slope- In the Netherlands today 4% of all deaths are involuntary euthanized

In the Netherlands 73% of the doctors admit to using drugs to end an infant's life

Recommendation: Euthanasia should remain illegal in the US

Capital Punishment:

Genesis 9:5-6, "I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. Any anyone who murders a fellow human must die. If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image."

Romans 13:1-5, Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ²So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. 1 Peter 2:13-14

Is it wrong to want justice? It is wrong to seek personal vengeance we need to love people, forgive them but it is ok to want justice and to cooperate with the government to make that happen.

What is worthy of death?

- Murder
- Treason, espionage
- Attempted terrorist attack
- Brutal rape, attempted murder that resulted in disability (However, 2008 Supreme Court case Kennedy vs. Louisiana, took away the right of any state to impose the death penalty when the victim's life was not taken)

What does the Bible say?

1. Exodus 20:3, "You shall not murder."
2. Matthew 5:38-39, "Turn the other cheek." This is a personal response.
3. Mathew 22:39, "Love your neighbor" Doesn't this overrule the OT. Actually, Jesus is quoting the OT. We are commanded to love and carry out justice.
4. Matthew 26:52, Peter defending Jesus.
 - a. Jesus did not want Peter to stop his arrest or be killed.
 - b. Apparently Peter carried a sword and Jesus authorized this in Luke 22:38

c. Jesus did not tell him to get rid of it but to put it back in its place

Common Objections:

1. Death Penalty does not deter crime. Actually several studies have shown it does. Generally speaking when executions increase murders decrease.
2. Innocent people have been put to death. Although DNA evidence has overturned the convictions of a number of death row inmates there is no proof that an innocent man has ever been convicted and science today makes it easier to establish a person's guilt or innocence.
3. Does violence by the state increase violence. No, again the opposite is actually true.
4. Are there racial and economic disparities in the death penalty. Let's assume there are that is not an argument against the death penalty but against the judicial system in general.

Recommendation: Government should use the death penalty in cases of premeditated murder as a deterrent to violent crime.

Romans 5:1-5, 21