

Abortion Is A Choice

By: Daniel Orona

Before I get started on this topic, I want to be very clear. I do not support abortion and I would counsel anyone that came to me for spiritual advice according to Scripture and the leading of the Spirit. But, as Christians we have to understand that we will never believe or act the same way as the world or the secular societies and governments that are on the earth. Abortion is a hot button issue and often one that is settled as far as the church is concerned. I would never expect a Christian to abort a baby as the act stands completely in contrast to what the Bible says and what we are to follow. However, the secular world does not believe as we do and we have to understand that they have a choice. It's no different than the choices that people made when they offered their children to Molech and threw them in fire.

This is a key difference when talking about this topic. Too often we expect the secular world to conform to our views and beliefs and then are unable to recognize they simply can't because they do not know the Christ that we know. I understand that I am not simply talking about getting drunk or using drugs, which are easier for Christians to see redemption from. I'm talking about the decision to take a life out of the womb of a mother.

For most of us, all we see is the act of aborting the baby and ending its life. However, there are numerous life experiences that lead up to that decision; the first being that the mother does not know Christ. But there are numerous others to think about from rape and incest to socioeconomic conditions. The point being that we should not judge the choice that others make prior to the knowledge of Christ. Think about the life that we lived. We were far from making the Godly decisions that we make now. Paul talked about this in Colossians 1:19-23 when he says that we were once alienated and enemies in our mind by wicked works and now reconciled.

Think about when you were out in the world. Did you need anyone to tell you what you were doing was wrong or something that you shouldn't be doing? The shame that came after it was enough. It was the conscience pushed by the Holy Spirit that let you know the path you were on was not the correct one. We have to realize that it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to convict sinners while in their path. I go back to the Scripture in Jude 22 that says, "And on some have compassion making a distinction, but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh." As Christians we focus a lot on that last part, the hating the sin, but love the sinner, but we forget that part about having compassion making a distinction. Psalms 1:1 says, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scornful;" It is not our place to judge the decisions that others who do not know Christ make. It is God's responsibility. We should not sit back in the seat of the scornful and stand in the way of sinners whether sinning or trying to come back from redemption. Without the conviction of the Holy Spirit it is a futile attempt to stop the behavior.

The point is that it is easy to condemn someone for a choice and say that they need to live in their own decisions and lie in the bed that they made. But where is the compassion and empathy to their situation? I have not met a woman who has had an abortion that doesn't bear that action with them constantly. The last thing they need is for us to heap condemnation and reinforce how much of a sinner they are without a path to redemption. The point of knowing I am a sinner is to find a savior that bore my sin to change me from who I am to who I will be in His image.

When I was in the world, I knew what I was doing was wrong. I didn't need anyone to tell me. The best thing that Christians did for me, was pray for me, but also let me live my life while they believed that the

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Holy Spirit would lead me back to where I needed to be. This was an incredibly tough lesson for my mom to understand. She would constantly remind me of what God had called me to be in Christ and would try to convince me to come back. I didn't want to hear it and frankly didn't care one bit about what she said and it led to a significant disruption in our relationship that God had to repair and He did in the end. However, on the other side, my dad said let him go. He will come back, believing that God would draw me back to Him, which is exactly what He did. I had a choice to follow the world or God and I chose the world at that time. Others have the same choice and we must respect that. The knowledge of Christ cannot be forced upon someone. They must willingly partake of the gift that is salvation and to judge others and hold them accountable to our beliefs when they don't know Christ is at best unfair and at worst cruel.

When I came back to the Lord, it was my mom who finally learned to let me make my own decisions that led me back. She showed me the compassion I needed while I was breaking down in my bedroom and sealed me back in Christ. She very easily could have brought up everything that I had done, the names I called her and all the evil I did to other people, but she didn't. She showed me love and compassion. When I went back to church that following week, I was scared. They knew what I was doing and what I had done. I was afraid of judgment, and I was afraid I wouldn't be welcomed. The first person I saw coming in was a childhood friend. She ran up and hugged me and said, "We've missed you!" The next person was the associate pastor. All he said to me was, "Welcome home." After that it was done. I'm not going to get into details of the things I did but will say they were terrible. This is the same type of compassion that we should have for a woman who has made the choice of an abortion. She is hurting physically, emotionally, and spiritually and did not come to that choice easily.

In Luke 10:30-37 we see the story of the Good Samaritan. I want to give a little color to this story. The Samaritan's were absolutely despised by the Jews of the time because they worshipped God outside the temple in the mountain, which was heretical. But in this story, it is a Samaritan that helps a man who fell in among thieves. The man made a choice to go down the road to Jericho alone, which was not the best decision, but regardless the Samaritan did not know this man, but saw that he was injured. This was after a priest (the church leadership) and a Levite (the Christian in the congregation) walked right past him after looking on the man's situation. But the Samaritan bound up his wounds with oil and wine, the oil representing the anointing or power and the wine representing the Spirit. He brought him to an inn and took care of him and then paid for his care when it was time for him to go. Jesus was teaching that anyone that we come in contact with is our neighbor and deserves mercy. It's easy for the church leadership and congregation to sit back behind the wall of the law and say that's the judgment they deserve, but true love shows mercy to people who are in those situations. Jesus commanded them to, "Go and do likewise." We also should go and do likewise even to women who have had abortions. Help bind their wounds and help lead them to a Christ that is good and faithful to forgive us.