

Abortion

Cultures can be judged in many ways, but eventually every nation in every age must be judged by this test: *how did it treat people?*

The Hippocratic Oath, which goes back more than 2000 years, has traditionally been taken by graduate students of medical schools in the West. It includes: "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception." In the 1970s, the phrase, "from the time of conception" was deleted and replaced with "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life".

The Bible teaches that 'man is made in the image of God' and therefore unique. Remove that teaching, as humanism has done, and there is no adequate basis for treating people well.

Of all the subjects relating to the erosion of human life, abortion is the keystone. Rightly, the matter of racial discrimination is widely contested. There have been massive protests against the treating of black people as non-persons, in the history of America, Australia and other countries. But the law declares millions of unborn babies of every colour of skin, to be non-persons.

It is not logical that a parent may be apprehended for child abuse if they cause harm to their child after birth, and yet those who kill their child before birth are without penalty, and in fact have society's approval.

As further evidence that our society is schizophrenic, consider our concern to provide special facilities for the disabled in public places: wheelchairs, ramps, conveyances to get the disabled on to buses and trains. Yet while having proven that we have compassion for the disabled, as well as providing resources to care for them, at the same time our laws give permission to destroy the newborn baby who might have become one of those disabled individuals.

Another serious example is that we will transport a new-born baby who is born premature, and has a congenital defect incompatible with life, to a hospital, so that a sophisticated team of doctors and nurses can correct that defect and plan for the baby's rehabilitation. Meanwhile, in other hospitals other medical personnel are destroying perfectly normal infants in the womb.

That children are often born alive after abortions is fact. Often, no medical care or pain relief is provided for these children. We need to think seriously about the aborted human beings who have been deprived of a chance to live, but we also need to consider with sympathy and compassion the bereft mothers. To tell a pregnant woman that a few hours or a day in the hospital or clinic will rid her of all her problems and will send her out the door a free person, is to forget the humanness of women who are now mothers, even though their child has gone. Abortion does not end all the problems. Often it just exchanged one set of problems for another.

Reference: Whatever happened to the human race? Francis Schaeffer