

ABORTION vs. INFANTICIDE

Is There a Difference?

Ever since Eve was deceived in Eden, the enemy's tactic of deception continues. It comes in various forms and is a main ingredient in desensitizing people to sin. Just as Eve was deceived by what the serpent said, words are still used manipulatively, and they continue to cause us to sin against God.

Dictionaries define *abortion* as the expulsion of a *fetus* from the womb, while *infanticide* is described as the *killing* of an *infant*. Since the 1973 Supreme Court decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, the Latin term *fetus* has generally replaced words such as *child*, *baby* and *infant* to describe humanity in the womb. However, many do not realize that both *fetus* and *infant* mean *young one*. Biology affirms what the Bible says, that at conception the life of a child begins.

Numerous Scriptures including Jeremiah 1:4 and Psalm 139:13-16 make it clear that a person at all stages in the womb is complete in God's eyes; even before he/she is conceived. Therefore, to God the preborn one is a *child*, *baby*, *infant*, loved and destined by Him with special purpose. So, no matter whether the term used is *fetus* or *infant*, do we actually agree with God that a preborn child has the same value as a born child? If we examine the current debate concerning the sanctity of human life through the filter of God's Word, we can see that abortion is actually infanticide decriminalized.

The word *abortion* is an excellent example of deceptive terminology, generally bringing to mind a mixture of concerns or impressions (viability, women's rights, etc.). On the other hand, the word *infanticide* indicates only one thing: the brutal death of an innocent child. The wide acceptance of abortion has resulted from the deceptive belief that there is a difference between the baby in the womb and a baby already born.

If we discovered that "unwanted" newborn babies were being systematically killed (*infanticide*), wouldn't we do everything possible to stop such an atrocity? Would we leave that issue to be fought by only those "led" to be involved in it? Yet, where is the outrage to the approximately 4,000 daily occurrences of legalized infanticide perpetrated by abortionists in the US? Are we desensitized to what God says in Proverbs 31:8-9: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy"? Who is least able to speak for themselves? Who among us is most needy? Doesn't the preborn child need the same defense as a born child? Are we taking seriously God's mandate to protect children at every stage of life by every means possible, including our time, resources, voting, and other activities?

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January 2014