

Abortion

Intro – Georgia’s New “Heartbeat Bill”

- Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp in early May signed into law a so-called “heartbeat” bill, banning abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy. Georgia is the fourth state to pass such a law in 2019.
- The “heartbeat bill” basically outlaws abortion once the baby’s heartbeat can be detected. The outcry was immediate once Georgia passed its new law.
- Several Hollywood figures announced that they’re pulling TV and film productions that were originally set to shoot in GA. A lengthy list of celebrities threatened a boycott over the measure.
- Alyssa Milano said, “I will do everything in my power to get as many productions as possible — including ‘Insatiable’ — to move out of this state which continues to put forth an oppressive, hurtful policy that contradicts everything the entertainment industry stands for.”
- Alabama passed an even stricter law – one that would outlaw all abortions, regardless of the situation (rape, incest, etc.). Should states be passing laws to outlaw abortion?

1. What is abortion?

- Abortion is defined as “the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy.”
- Experts tell us abortion existed more than 2,000 year ago. The Greeks were among the first to permit abortion, but Jews and Christians have

historically stood against abortion. For instance, Josephus (a 1st century Jewish historian) condemned abortion.

- The early church fathers agreed with their Jewish contemporaries. Men such as Tertullian, Clement of Alexandria, Basil of Caesarea, Jerome, and John Chrysostom all spoke out against abortion.
- 1,000 years later, John Calvin said, “The fetus, though enclosed in the womb...is already a human being.”
- Two Main Types of Abortion
 - Medical Abortion (the "abortion pill") – taking medication to end the pregnancy
 - Surgical Abortion – a surgical procedure to terminate the pregnancy
- Medical option #1 – Mifepristone and Misoprostol. The drugs work together to end pregnancy up until 10 weeks.
 - A doctor or nurse administers mifepristone in the office or clinic. This drug blocks the hormone progesterone, which the embryo needs to implant in the uterus and grow.
 - Misoprostol is sent home with the patient. It takes a few hours or up to 4 days after the first pill to begin working. Misoprostol makes the uterus contract to push out the fertilized egg.
 - Side effects include - passing small blood clots, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, tiredness, headache, sweating, dizziness.
 - Most women have an abortion within 4 to 5 hours after taking the pills. Cost - \$300-800
- Medical Option #2 - Methotrexate and misoprostol.

- This method can only be used up to the first 7 weeks of pregnancy.
- Methotrexate is a cancer drug – just as it stops cancer cells from multiplying, it also stops cells in the embryo from multiplying. Misoprostol then contracts the uterus to release its contents.
- Doctors mainly use this method for women who have a pregnancy outside their uterus, an ectopic pregnancy.
- Methotrexate is administered in the doctor's office. It comes as a shot or a pill that is taken by mouth. It takes the misoprostol pills 4 to 6 days later to work at home.
- The abortion usually begins within 1 to 12 hours after the medicine is taken. Side effects include nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, headache, dizziness, low-grade fever, chills. Cost - \$300-1000.
- Surgical Option #1 – Vacuum Aspiration
 - Vacuum aspiration uses gentle suction to pull the fetus and placenta out of the uterus. This procedure is performed at a clinic, doctor's office, or hospital.
 - Vacuum aspiration is used during the first trimester of pregnancy or during the early part of the second trimester.
 - The procedure lasts about 5-10 minutes and side effects include bleeding or spotting, cramps, nausea, sweating, dizziness. Cost - \$600-1000.
- Surgical Option #2 – Dilation and Evacuation
 - Dilation and evacuation (D&E) is typically used in the second trimester, usually after the 14th week of pregnancy.
 - It's often recommended for someone who's delayed getting an abortion, or for someone who chooses to end a pregnancy because the baby has a severe abnormality or medical problem.
 - D&E uses a combination of vacuum aspiration, forceps, and dilation and curettage (D and C). The procedure may be done over a two-day period.
 - On the first day, the doctor dilates (or widens) the cervix to make it easier to remove the pregnancy tissue. On the second day, the doctor uses forceps to remove the fetus and placenta, a tube to suction out the uterus, and a scoop-like instrument called a curette to scrape out the uterine lining.
 - The procedure takes less than 30 minutes and most women go home the same day.
 - Side effects from a D&E include: bleeding, cramping, and nausea. Cost - \$1500+
- Surgical Option #3 – Induction Abortion
 - Medicine is administered to force labor. The uterus contracts to release the baby. The provider might also use suction or a spoon-like instrument called a curette to clean out the uterus. Side effects include pain, bleeding, cramping, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, chills, and headache.

- Because this procedure is performed late in the pregnancy, it can cost \$3,000 or more.
 - Surgical Option #4 – Partial-Birth Abortion
 - Partial-Birth Abortion is a procedure in which the abortionist pulls a living baby feet-first out of the womb and into the birth canal (vagina), except for the head, which the abortionist purposely keeps lodged just inside the cervix (the opening to the womb).
 - The abortionist punctures the base of the baby's skull with a surgical instrument, such as a long surgical scissors or a pointed hollow metal tube called a trochar. He then inserts a catheter (tube) into the wound, and removes the baby's brain with a powerful suction machine.
 - This causes the skull to collapse, after which the abortionist completes the delivery of the now-dead baby. Cost - \$3,000+
 - In addition to physical side effects, many women experience the following after all types of abortion - Sadness and guilt, Extreme regret, Uncontrollable crying, Sleep disturbances, Depression, Desire for a replacement baby, Disruption of personal relationships, Lack of self-respect, Avoidance of others who are pregnant or with babies.
2. What has happened with abortion in America?
- The first legal restrictions on abortion appeared in the 1820s, forbidding abortion after the fourth month of pregnancy.
- By 1900, legislators at the urging of the American Medical Association (AMA) enacted laws banning abortion in most U.S. states.
 - Due to high maternal morbidity and mortality rates caused by back alley abortions in the 20th century, physicians, nurses, and social workers pushed for the legalization of abortion.
 - In its landmark 1973 case *Roe v. Wade*, where a woman challenged the Texas laws criminalizing abortion, the U.S. Supreme Court reached two important conclusions:
 - That state abortion laws are subject to the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and
 - That the procurement of an abortion was a constitutional right during the first and second trimesters of a pregnancy based on the constitutional *right to privacy*.
 - Since 1973, over 61 million babies have been legally aborted. That's about 134,000 annually, 11,000 monthly, 371 daily, 15 per hour, and 1 baby aborted every 15 minutes in America.
 - Planned Parenthood has been the major proponent and provider of abortions in America. After coming under fire for selling the body parts of aborted babies a few years ago, Planned Parenthood has lost federal funding.
 - In 2012, NYC schools began offering the morning-after pill to its female students.
3. Why do women have abortions?

- The main reason for abortion is unwanted pregnancy – either because the child is not wanted by the mother or the father, or both. Thus, criminalizing abortion would basically force mothers and fathers to take responsibility for their actions.
- Much is said about incidents of rape and incest. Studies consistently tell us that rape and incest make up just 1% of all abortions. The overwhelming majority of abortions are those of convenience.
- Should a woman have the right to terminate her pregnancy because she was raped or in an instance of incest? Absolutely not! God is the giver of life, no matter how the child was conceived. A child should not be punished for the sins of the father!
- In cases of rape, the child should be born, the mother should be supported, and the rapist should be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

4. What does the Bible say about life/abortion?

- Scripture is clear that every life has been pre-determined by God.
 - *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations”* (Jer. 1:5).
 - *“My [a]frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet*

unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them” (Psalm 139:15-16).

- Every life is the creation of God Himself.
 - *“Let us make man in our own image...”* (Gen. 1:26).
 - *“The rich and the poor have this in common, the Lord is the maker of them all”* (Prov. 22:2).
 - *“I will praise You, for [a]ll am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”* (Psalm 139:14)
 - God strictly forbids murder, even of those humans inside the womb, whom the Bible calls innocent blood.
 - *“You shall not murder.”* (Exo. 20:13)
 - Wicked King Manasseh of Judah *“made his son pass through the fire”* (sacrificed) As a result, God promised judgment because *“Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another”* (2 Kings 21:16). God’s people have always protected the innocent.
- #### 5. What is the Christian response to abortion?
- Christians MUST stand against all forms of abortion in every situation! To do anything less is to embrace a culture of death that is not divine, but satanic. We must tell the truth on this & every issue! **The unborn can’t advocate 4 themselves.

- Our stand must be loving and consistent – we must denounce abortion private and publicly. We must pray for our leaders to end legalized abortion. We must vote AGAINST those who claim to be “pro-choice.”
- “Pro-choice” is a term that abortion advocates used to label themselves in the years following *Roe v. Wade*. It’s a much more sanitary term than “pro-death” or “anti-baby” or “anti-woman,” but the abortion movement could wear all those labels.
- We must provide alternates to abortion that are Christ-centered and support-oriented. Our church partners with Hope Resource Center here in Knoxville. Their ministry has seen hundreds of women change their mind about abortion by providing ultrasound technology and providing the necessities of life for new mothers and children.
- We must be willing to provide shelter and resources to those who choose to keep their children. As Christians, we must put our money where our mouth is. If we say we’re against abortion, let’s help those who choose motherhood and support adoption at every turn.
- The world must know that while we’re anti-abortion, we’re not anti-women. That is a false narrative concocted by feminists. We love women and we must help them (and dads) find hope.
- We must minister to those who are broken because they’ve had an abortion. The church is not a hotel of sinners, it’s a hospital for saints. We’re all wicked sinners who deserve hell! If you’ve had an abortion, you are WELCOME here and we will help you grow in Christ. (Tebow story)