

Biblical Perspectives

Definition:

Biblical perspectives is simply understanding and considering certain views, events, practices and theories from a biblical standpoint which is the infallible word of God.

Defense on Biblical Perspectives:

The Bible is neither ancient nor modern. It is simply the word of God to humanity no matter his era or civilization. Since God is both omniscient and omnipresent in human history, it means His word was given to meet the moral, social and spiritual needs of man in all civilizations. He says in Malachi 3:6 "I am the Lord, I do not change."

You might want to ask me; "If God were to re-write His word, would He revise, change or adjust its contents?" The answer is No. The word of God was complete from the day it was written and contains all that humanity needs until the end of time. And it shall be by this very word of God that He shall judge man.

Call to Biblical Perspectives:

Any well intentioned person who has the fear of God would want to approach the world and its events and circumstances from a biblical stand point.

Names and images of blasphemy also come in the form of "rights." Such rights which violate God's moral law are the catalysts for divine judgments upon given civilizations. Sin has always been sin. But attempts to legalize or institutionalize a given evil pose the threat which the Bible describes as "transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances, broken the everlasting covenant." Such transgression of the moral law brings about a defilement of the earth. For this reason, the Bible continues, "the curse has devoured the earth and they that dwell therein are desolate" (Is 24:5-6). The breaking of God's moral law would be the breaking of the very foundation on which the earth is founded. This would leave the earth with no option but to tilt over and finally collapse. There is thus the need to maintain divine standards.

Many people are confused as to which idea or concept to follow. It is therefore an opportunity to make them understand God's view or verdict on such issues. Moral and social issues like abortion, gay marriage, lesbianism, gender equality etc which are all preoccupying to the human mind should be well considered.

A-ABORTION

Abortion is the interruption and termination in the growth process of an embryo or fetus. Abortion is voluntary when it is induced and carried out with or without the help of medical practitioners; and involuntary when it occurs naturally like in a miscarriage without any exterior human intervention. So alarming are the facts and figures that "a mass pre-natal infanticide" is a just term to describe the practice.

The topic of abortion has fuelled heated debates around the world resulting in various nations adopting different policies on the subject. While some nations have legalized abortion, others have completely forbidden the practice altogether. Nations like China with its one child policy experience a high abortion rate with millions of "unwanted babies" killed every year as parents seek a favorable sex or try to maintain the quota per family.

In other parts of the world social pressures act as the main catalyst for the eviction of unborn babies. Prominent are girls of school going age who realize their pregnancy only a month or two later. Fearing to have their education interrupted, an abortion seems to be the easy way out. Sex workers are also known to undertake this practice so as not to disrupt the unholy means by which they make money. Equally for economic reasons, and fearing to be single parents, many people find abortion to be an easy option. But as pathetic as these facts might be, are they enough to justify the elimination of human life in this manner? We know the enormous health risks, emotional distresses and social breakdown that are experienced in the process and aftermath of an abortion.

If embryos and fetuses possess living characteristics i.e. they feed, move, grow etc, then destroying them would be killing them. And if human life begins in embryonic form, then destroying them would be committing murder. It is the duty of the human community to protect human life especially those of the vulnerable. But the far weightier consideration is the divine verdict on the issue.

Abortion from the biblical perspective is not only immoral but a terrible crime. It is a sin of blood. It is murder. Human life begins at conception and should be protected at all levels of its existence. In biblical times, abortion was purely unthought-of. The only biblical comparison I can see compatible with our modern day abortion was the ancient pagan practice of child sacrifices made to idol gods. This practice was so wicked that it constituted one of the reasons why God destroyed the Canaanites and gave their land to the Jews (Deut 18:10-12).

Abortion is justified only when the mother's life is at risk as a result of her pregnancy. Here, induced abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. Abortion is equally justified in cases where serious deformities have been detected in the unborn fetus. Abortion is equally necessary here to save the child from a life of severe emotional and physical pain. The Bible says "every good and perfect gift comes from above" (James 1:17).

Despite the numerous sympathetic reasons given as excuses for abortion, the practice still remains a terrible crime against God and humanity. Before indulging in any sexual activity, the partners (especially the female) should think of the consequences in case there is a pregnancy. Abstinence is necessary for the unmarried; as well as other modern birth control techniques should be applied by those not willing to have a baby at the wrong time. It should not be easier to go in for an abortion than to learn and practice birth control techniques.

For those who have their hands stained with the blood of the unborn, they should seek the forgiveness of God through the atoning blood of Christ. Apart from serious health reasons, there is no justification for abortion. Instead of governments spending money on abortion and its consequences, they should direct their efforts and resources on matured and responsible sex education.

We all have the right to make choices. And in deed, we do make very important choices in life. We decide whom to marry, where to live, what career path to follow, and even whether or not to receive God's gift of salvation. But one area where we don't have a right of choice is whether to commit murder. The pro-choice argument is both ironic and illogical to say the least. We don't independently or even collectively choose to kill. Of course, nations go to war in a view of pursuing a just cause by either achieving liberty or defending justice. But in the gruesome killing of millions of innocent, defenseless and harmless unborn babies, no cause is being defended. Mothers are responsible in every way for the unborn embryo and fetus they carry in their wombs in the same way as they are responsible for the child's safety and upbringing when he or she is born. Abortion is a crime against humanity as it is against God. Abortion should be discouraged by every available active means.

To better understand how heaven considers abortion, freely read the little book titled *My Personal Experiences in Heaven*.

B-STEM CELL RESEARCH

Scientists in recent years have discovered the means to culture large numbers of cells called *human stem cells*. These are unspecialized cells that can grow to become any of the over two hundred different cell types that make up the human body.

According to the National Institute of Health in the U.S.A, "Stem cells may hold the key to replacing cells lost in many devastating diseases." Such diseases include: Parkinson's disease, diabetes, heart disease, liver failure, cancer and a host of others. Since stem cell therapies have the promise of regenerating healthy new tissues, they come under the general designation "regenerative medicine".

The main controversy that has surrounded this science lies in the fact that many people including a number scientists feel that the exploitation of human stem cells particularly those derived from embryos or fetuses shows a disregard for the sanctity of human life. It is therefore important for us to have a look at the different kinds of human stem cells and get to know what the Bible might be saying as to their exploitation.

Our concern is not the success of the science but the ethical consideration and the biblical perspective relating to the science.

1-Embryonic Stem Cell:

Embryonic stem cells are human embryonic stem cells removed from the blastocyst and maintained in an undifferentiated state in cell culture line in the laboratory. This simply means embryonic stem cells can be cultured to produce unlimited identical copies of themselves.

The simple reason why embryonic stem cell research is bad and evil is because the process of extracting the embryonic stem cell results in the destruction of the embryo. This is nothing but murder. Human life begins at conception and there is no nobility in trying to save a human life by destroying another. No human would want to know that the reason he or she never existed was because he was destroyed against his will in his embryonic state just to save some other person.

No matter the large numbers of embryos that clinics or hospitals might be holding, they should be discarded (buried) in a respectful manner. Those embryos have souls that will go back to their creator at their death. Embryonic stem cell research is not only immoral but also sinful and should be discouraged.

2-Embryonic Germ Cell:

The embryonic germ cell is derived from the gonadal ridge of the embryo or fetus. Like the embryonic stem cell, it is equally pluripotent. The biblical perspective on embryonic germ cell research is the same as that relating to embryonic stem cells. It is murder since the embryo is destroyed and an immoral exploitation of human life.

3-Adult Stem Cells:

The adult stem cell is an unspecialized cell found in a specialized tissue such as bone marrow, blood and blood vessels, the spinal cord, the skin, the liver, the gastrointestinal tract, and the pancreas. Adult stem cells have been used successfully to treat a number of diseases. The major problem facing research in adult stem cells is that apart from those derived from the bone marrow which seems to give hope to be able to be able to give rise to the other cell types; those derived from other tissues don't seem to have this flexibility. Again adult stem cells are rare and difficult to identify.

Nonetheless, the exploitation of the adult stem cells does not involve the destruction of human life or embryos and consequently doesn't pose any ethical dilemma. If any research should be conducted on human stem cells, it should be on the adult stem cells. The Bible does not oppose science or modern medicine except they violate God's moral or spiritual laws.

C-HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality is the act and practice of same sex intercourse. This practice can be traced far back into ancient biblical times resulting in the divine destruction of the city-states of Sodom and Gomorrah. We could even infer that homosexuality could have contributed to the destruction of the ancient world by the flood waters as the ancient account equally states: “so God looked upon the earth and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth” (Genesis 6:12).

The very notion of homosexuality violates the concept of sex because between men for example, the anus is not a sex organ. Any sexual activity with a non sex organ is an abuse. And talking of lesbianism, one vagina cannot have sexual intercourse with another. Such abuses become crimes that are to be punishable by law. What do we do when criminals become vocal and begin demanding for the right to be formally recognized as such and for their evil activities to be legalized? We simply tell them, No! If they wish to continue in their abuses in secret, that’s up to them. But as a law abiding society, no institution whether political or religious is supposed to have its image stained with the introduction of bad and immoral laws. If the justice systems of the nations fail on such moral issues, then God will be left with no option but to vindicate Himself by rendering vengeance on those individuals, nations, and the earth at large.

The practice of homosexuality has been steadily gaining grounds in recent times as such gays and lesbians have begun coming out publicly to ask for the respect of their rights. Some nations have even passed legislation to recognize such gay and lesbian “rights.” And even in the Christian world, certain factions of apostate Christianity have equally begun reviewing their stand on the issue. But the best view we have to consider is the biblical. The book that is neither ancient nor modern, the book that addresses all human issues despite his era or civilization has a crystal clear verdict on the issue.

The Bible describes homosexuality as “doing so wickedly” (Genesis 19:7). This describes its degree of sinfulness and incrimination. The Bible again describes homosexuals as “given up to vile affections” (Romans 1:26). This describes its degree of immorality and debauchery. The Bible equally describes homosexuals as having a “reprobate mind” (Romans 1:28). This describes its degree of captivity and addiction. From the above biblical analysis, homosexuality could be best described as an immoral sexual wickedness in which many are held captive.

Some gays pretend to think they were born that way and thus have that kind of sexual orientation. But no one is born gay. It is possible for you to allow yourself to become disillusioned and gradually you become reprobate (hardened). That is why culture is a great factor in influencing human behavior. And it also explains why homosexuality is commonly practiced in the West and is only recently gradually spreading to other parts of the world through cross cultural interactions and the influence of the internet. But righteousness is the ability to stand out from one’s sinful cultural influences and be identified with God. It is the option of walking in the ways of God and not those of men. All those whom the Bible describes as “righteous” are people who stood out and identified with God rather than with their sinful societies.

The Bible uses the harshest words to describe homosexuality, and clearly says that homosexuals shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 9:6-7). If God did not spare His own Son but allowed Him to suffer on the cross as He bore the sins of the world, He will not spare anybody who compromises with His word in any area including homosexuality. The divine verdict on this subject is too clear for anyone to allow himself to be deceived.

God’s love towards gays is not the love that condones with their practice. It is rather the love that is willing and able to set them free from such an addictive sinful practice. God wants those entangled in homosexuality to come to Him in repentance and obtain salvation and deliverance through the blood of Christ. You can be saved if you wish.

D-GAY MARRIAGES

Gay marriage is the legalization and institutionalization of homosexuality. This takes the sin from the individual to the collective and national levels. To fully understand God’s view on gay marriage, you need to read on the biblical perspective on homosexuality above. The Bible says we should not follow a multitude to sin. This implies that God does not operate on democratic principles where the majority carries the vote. If so, God should have spared the ancient world as well as Sodom and Gomorrah.

The legalization of homosexuality in gay marriages by some nations is simply an image of blasphemy against God. It is a direct breaking of the natural law and God’s moral law; as well as a violation of God’s precepts and statutes. People, shall God remain indifferent to this? I think the answer is No. We are not sub-primates. Meaning even the animals keep the natural law. God made living species to be male and female to fulfill complementary roles to each other. Sexual intercourse is for pleasure as it is for procreation. And it is through the institution of a heterogeneous marriage relationship that this is to be achieved. I exhort the nations of the earth to keep the moral law for it is by this that humanity shall be preserved.