

Biblical Perspectives on Life and "Killing" Issues

The Bible says in Exodus 20:13, "You shall not murder". Is the intentional taking of human life ever justified? The answer to this question is important, because it impacts National Defense, Capital Punishment, Abortion, Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia, and Self-Defense.

Biblical Principles

The Bible DOES differentiate between justified (not murder) and unjustified killing (murder). All intentional killing is considered unjustified and therefore murder EXCEPT for the following three situations:

- 1) **Capital punishment by the state** (Gen 9:6; Ex 21:12-14; Lev 24:17; Num 35:31; Duet 19:11-13; Luke 23:39-41; Acts 25:10-12; Rom 13: 3-4). Note: even though the state has the right to inflict capital punishment, other biblical concepts such as mercy, fairness and redemption should be considered too.
- 2) **"Just" Wars** (defense of justice and suppression of evil, and in defense of homeland against an enemy) (Num 21:14; II Sam 22:35, 47-49; Esther 8:11; Neh 4:14-16, 7:1-3; Lev 26:1-8; Jer 51:20; Luke 14:31; Heb 11:33-34).
- 3) **Self- Defense by Individuals** (Ex 22:2; II Sam 2:18-23).

Potential Applications:

- * National Defense and having a military is biblical
- * Capital punishment is biblical
- * Self-defense is biblical
- * Abortion is unbiblical EXCEPT when necessary to save the life of the mother (i.e. self-defense); exceptions for other hard cases (e.g. rape, incest, severe deformity) may be necessary for political and judicial reasons and to exhibit compassion, mercy and grace.
- * Assisted suicide and euthanasia are unbiblical

LIFE RELATED SCRIPTURES

Here are some additional principles that relate to the issues of abortion, euthanasia, infanticide and suicide:

- 1) Life is from God (Gen 1:27, 2:7; Ps 139:15-16; Is 42:5, 49:1, 5).
- 2) Life belongs to God (Num 27:16; Ez 18:4; Ps 24:1, 89:11; I Co 16:9).
- 3) Life should be protected (Ex 20:13, 23:7; Duet 19:10, 27:25).
- 4) We should defend the defenseless (Ps 82:2-4; Prove 31:8-9; Is 1:15-17; Jer 22:3, 16).

Here are additional scriptures and their main messages:

Ps 139:13-16 God wonderfully made us in the womb; He knew us prior to birth

Luke 1:41-44 John the Baptist, while in the womb, leaped for joy when Mary greeted Elizabeth

Jer 1:5 God formed Jeremiah in the womb, and set him apart prior to birth

Is 42:5 God is source of life

Is 44:2, 24 God formed us in the womb

Is 49:1, 5 Before Isaiah was born, God called him to be His servant

Job 31:15 God creates us in the womb of our mothers

Ps 22:9, 10 God was David's God from the womb

Ps 100:3 God made us

Duet 27:25 Cursed is the man who accepts a bribe to kill an innocent person

Gen 1:27; 2:7 Man is created in God's image

Eccl 11:5 God is maker of all things, including forming the body in the mother's womb

Ex 21:22-25 Accidental injury to an unborn child was punishable

Gen 4:1 Life is from God

Gen 25:21-23 Jacob and Esau, while in the womb, are referred to as "two nations" and "two peoples"

Job 10:8-12 God shaped Job, molded Job like clay, and gave Job life