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Sermon Notes

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## **Extinguishing All of Satan's Flaming Arrows**

**Ephesians 6:10-18**

January 22, 2013 = the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the notorious Roe v Wade decision

### I. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

#### A. Annual Reminder of the Sacredness of Human Life

1. Sanctity = sacredness, setting apart as holy unto God
2. Why? Because of the special creation of man in the image of God
3. Because the sin has not eradicated that status, and the killing of a human being will forever be an attack on the image of God
4. Why do we need this reminder? Because Satan hates the image of God and attacks it in every generation, mostly by causing people themselves to undervalue that image in themselves and in others
  - a. Satan is a murderer precisely because he hates God and is trying to attack God by destroying the image of God
  - b. Most of Satan's killing he does through people, moving them to despise the person and attack them

#### B. Annual Reminder of the Blessings of Children

1. One of the great casualties of the abortion rights movement and the "Every Child a Wanted Child" campaign has been the basic concept that a child is an incredible BLESSING FROM GOD, not a curse or burden
2. Scripture clearly teaches this

***Genesis 1:28 God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.***

***Genesis 9:1 God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.***

***Deuteronomy 7:13 He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. He will bless your descendants***

***Deuteronomy 28:4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock***

***Psalm 113:9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the LORD.***

***Psalm 127:3-5 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. <sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. <sup>5</sup> Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!***

3. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is a chance to renew our love for children, to approach the same delight in children that Jesus had

***Mark 10:13-16 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." <sup>16</sup> And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.***

### C. Annual Reminder of the Present Scourge of Abortion

1. Why specifically do we need this reminder? Because we observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on or around the anniversary of one of the greatest tragedies in our nation's history, the Roe v Wade decision legalizing abortion
2. As Christians, we grieve over the resulting attack on the image of God... since Roe v Wade, there have been over 50 million babies aborted in the US

3. Worldwide, we grieve at the ongoing attack on humanity worldwide: sex selection abortions in India and China, forced abortion for women who have already had the one child permitted by the Communist government
  - a. Worldwide, approximately 42 million abortions annually
  - b. 1 in 5 pregnancies end in abortion
4. It is important for us to keep this issue in front of us and to keep praying for an end to this scourge

#### D. Annual Reminder of the Power of God

1. When faced with such seemingly hopeless situations, it is very good for us to remember the awesome power of Almighty God

***Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.***

***Isaiah 14:26-27 This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations. <sup>27</sup> For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?***

***Daniel 4:34-35 His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. <sup>35</sup> All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?"***

2. We'll see in Isaiah 37 how unstoppable the power of God is... He can do absolutely anything He wants to do with the human race on any issue any time
3. It is good for us to line a seemingly undefeatable foe—abortion—alongside the doctrine of God's omnipotence

#### E. Annual Reminder of the Truth of God's Word

1. Satan is constantly dishing out the lies... pouring them out, and the more we hear the same lies over and over, the more we think they might be true

2. This is especially true when it comes to abortion
3. This morning, we will line up statements alongside the truth of God's word, and show how they fail
4. God's written word is the perfect standard of truth... the measuring line of all the statements and action of humanity

***John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.***

***Isaiah 45:19 I, the LORD, speak the truth; I declare what is right.***

#### F. Annual Reminder of the Wickedness of Satan

1. I just said a moment ago that Satan is a liar... but his lies in particular are in service to his hatred of human beings and his desire to KILL THEM

***John 8:44 [The devil] was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***

2. The machinery of abortion has its roots in Satan's dark hatred for the human race and his desire to thwart God's purposes for us
3. The sacrifice of children to satisfy Satan's dark rage has been a part of many wicked world religions... like the false god Molech

***2 Kings 17:16-17 [The Israelites] bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal. <sup>17</sup> They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They practiced divination and sorcery and sold themselves to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger.***

4. We need to see through the rights talk, and the political talk, and the ethics talk... and understand the dark spiritual side to abortion

#### G. Annual Reminder of the Future World

1. The world that is to come will be free forever from this affliction of abortion
2. All the darkness will end, and the time of Satan's ascendancy will be dealt with by the power of Christ, the Judge of all the Earth

***Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."***

#### H. Annual Reminder of the Grace of God in Christ

1. I want to hold up the incredible grace of God in Christ for the forgiveness of all sins
2. By faith in Christ all our sins may be forgiven
3. It is SO IMPORTANT that we realize that the blood of Christ is sufficient to cleanse us from all the sins associated with abortion and all the ways we've violated God's laws

## II. The Shield of Faith

### A. Ephesians 6: Paul's Final Word in this Great Epistle

1. An incredible journey through the grace of God in Christ
2. Starts with the determination of God before the foundation of the world to pour out blessings on us in Christ
3. The centerpiece of this is God's redemptive work of forgiveness through the blood of Christ

***Ephesians 1:7-8 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us***

4. The power of the Holy Spirit has brought us outsiders into this grace

***Ephesians 1:13-14 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance***

5. God's power in Christ to bring all things together under one head

***Ephesians 1:10 to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.***

***Ephesians 1:20-23 Christ ... raised him from the dead and seated ...at God's right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.***

6. God's power in Christ to raise us from the dead in Christ and to deliver us from Satan's dark Kingdom

***Ephesians 2:1-5 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.***

7. Ephesians 4-6: the ethics of the Christian life

***Ephesians 4:1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.***

8. The centerpiece of this section is the command to be filled with the Spirit

***Ephesians 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.***

9. Ephesians 6:11-19: the final word on the Christian life in Ephesians... the most exhaustive treatise on spiritual warfare in the Bible

## B. Reminder of the Invisible Forces Arrayed Against Us

1. As part of the Spirit-filled life is this command

***Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.***

***<sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.***

2. Paul wants us to be aware of the spiritual forces of wickedness arrayed against us in the heavenly realms... for we cannot see them, but they are every bit as real as the physical world we see with our physical eyes

***Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

3. He wants us to realize we have a role to play in this spiritual warfare that's going on... and that we have to BE STRONG IN GOD'S MIGHTY POWER
4. AND that we have a responsibility to prepare ourselves for that fight by putting on the spiritual armor God has arrayed for us

***Ephesians 6:13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.***

### C. The Christian Soldier, Fully Equipped

***Ephesians 6:14-17 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***

***Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.***

1. The articles of this warfare are powerful and effective, but the fact that we have to "put them on" shows a responsibility we have to prepare ourselves for action against Satan

2. As we put on these elements in our understanding, and TAKE OUR STAND, STAND OUR GROUND, then the devil will lose

***James 4:7 Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

***Deuteronomy 28:7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.***

#### D. The Elements Described Briefly

1. The “belt of truth” represents our commitment to the truth of God: the Bible and Jesus Christ
2. The “breastplate of righteousness” represents the perfect imputed righteousness of Christ, by which we can never be slain, but are seen to be perfect in God’s sight
3. The “shoes” are the readiness that comes both to believe the gospel for ourselves and to preach the gospel to others... the Christian soldier is equipped to make progress both in the internal and external journeys, and the gospel is the key to that progress... the way by which we gain traction and move ahead
4. The “helmet of salvation” is the whole work of God in saving our souls, and it is a helmet because the mind is the key to everything... so much of the Christian warfare is a battle for the MIND

***Ephesians 4:17-18 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.***

***Romans 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.***

***2 Corinthians 10:5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***



5. The incredible “sword of the Spirit” which is the word of God, by which we can both parry the thrusts of Satan’s lies, and strike a fatal blow against Satan’s Kingdom by the gospel
6. The power of prayer: some have called it the Christians “walkie-talkie” by which he can call in far greater power than he could ever marshal for himself

#### E. The Shield of Faith Particularly

***Ephesians 6:16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.***

1. The shield is the most vital defensive article listed here
2. It was designed to keep fatal blows from the sword and from the flying arrows from piercing the armor listed here
3. Ancient soldier were especially proud of their shields... it was a symbol of all they were as soldiers

Greek mothers would command their sons, “Come back with your shields or upon them.”

4. Often times the soldiers would decorate their shields with insignia representing the King for whom they fought
5. It is identified as the “shield of FAITH”
  - a. Faith is the eyesight of the soul by which we can see into the invisible realms and see what is there
  - b. It is only by faith that we see both the “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” AND the infinite power of Almighty God to defeat them
  - c. Faith is also the CONFIDENCE of God’s power directly given FOR YOU... that God is FOR US and will fight FOR US

***Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for...”***

- d. By faith, we have confidence in total victory, confidence in final victory

- e. By faith, we Christian soldiers have an irrepressible MORALE, a WILL TO FIGHT that is indispensable to victory
- f. By faith, we are JUSTIFIED by God, seen to be totally righteous in God's sight; this is the source of our confidence in fighting Satan

#### F. How the Shield of Faith is 100% Effective

1. It is marvelous to see how Paul comments on this one article above others in its EFFECTIVENESS
2. He says "with which you are able to extinguish ALL the flaming arrows of the evil one."
3. It is 100% effective if wielded properly
4. Satan's "flaming arrows" are directed at US PARTICULARLY, to kill us from a distance
  - a. Arrows are especially terrifying, because you can't see where they are coming from and they kill from a distance
  - b. Think of the basic hand-to-hand nature of warfare in those days... two armies grappling with each other, locked in mortal combat—you can see your enemy, he is right in front of you, you can see where his hands are, what moves he's making
  - c. BUT suddenly, swooping down on you from above, comes a terrifying arrow, flying with astonishing speed... it has the power to pierce your helmet, your breastplate, your armor...

***Psalm 91:5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day***

***Job 20:24-25 Though he flees from an iron weapon, a bronze-tipped arrow pierces him. <sup>25</sup> He pulls it out of his back, the gleaming point out of his liver.***

***1 Kings 22:34 But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel [Ahab] between the sections of his armor.***

- d. Arrows shot by strong archers could cross distances of 400 yards; massed archers could fire thick volleys through the air, arcing down at 30-45 degree angles and mowing down everyone in the way
- e. Even more terrifying was the prospect of FLAMING ARROWS

The simplest flaming arrows had oil- or resin-soaked tows tied just below the arrowhead

When they hit a soldier, they would ignite his clothing and send him to a horrible death

***Psalm 7:13 He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows.***

- f. If you are approaching an enemy's position across an open field of battle, and a volley of flaming arrows comes screaming down on you from above, your only hope of survival was your shield

## 5. The Roman Shield

- a. Called the *scutum*
- b. Rectangular, semi-cylindrical
- c. Light enough to be held in one hand, but long enough to cover the entire body
- d. Would make it almost impossible to kill a body of infantry with archery fire; especially if all the infantry GATHERED TOGETHER and locked their shields side by side like the shell of a giant turtle; the Romans did this regularly, calling it the *Testudo* (Latin for tortoise)

## G. Satan's "Flaming Arrows"

1. So, what are Satan's "flaming arrows"?
2. Lies that have power to attack the minds of people

3. False doctrines... about God, about Christ, about humanity, about salvation, about eternity, about heaven and hell

***1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons***

4. Temptations to sin: alluring enticements to violate God's laws

***Matthew 4:1-3 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."***

***Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one***

5. Accusations of sin

***Zechariah 3:1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.***

6. Undermining assurance and giving despair

7. False arguments that undermine confidence in God's truth

***2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup> The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup> We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.***

Flaming arrows are also "STRONGHOLDS"... like fortresses that have to be assaulted

Flaming arrows are "ARGUMENTS" that set themselves up against the knowledge of Christ

Flaming arrows are "THOUGHTS" that have to be taken captive and made to obey Christ

To “TAKE UP THE SHIELD OF FAITH” means to understand, believe, and apply God’s Holy Word in each particular case

### III. Extinguishing the Flaming Arrows of Satan’s Lies

#### A. A Strong Dose of Truth Needed in this Ongoing Struggle

B. Randy Alcorn’s *Pro-Life Answers to Pro-Choice Arguments* does an excellent job... there are fifteen of them in the North Tower Resource Center

#### C. Zero In First On Arguments Concerning Life, Humanity, and Personhood

Biblical truth: Human life begins at conception, not at birth

For us as Christians, this should settle it forever!! Alcorn’s arguments are “apologetics” to those who don’t accept the testimony of Scripture...

a. See Elizabeth’s statement about John while he was still in her womb

***Luke 1:44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.***

b. See also Elizabeth’s statement about Mary’s status as the “mother of my Lord,” even though she was only a few weeks pregnant

***Luke 1:43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?***

Biblically, Mary was ALREADY A MOTHER at that point, and the MOTHER OF ELIZABETH’S LORD, Jesus Christ

NOTE: God’s direct activity in forming the child in the mother’s womb

***Job 10:9-12 Remember that you molded me like clay. Will you now turn me to dust again? 10 Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese, 11 clothe me with skin and flesh and knit me together with bones and sinews? 12 You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.***

***Psalm 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.***

**What would make us think we had a right to stop that process???**

Now: let's look at some of Satan's flaming arrows of falsehood

**1. "It's uncertain when human life begins; that's a religious question that can't be answered by science."**

- If there's uncertainty about when human life begins, the benefit of the doubt should go to preserving life. If you're driving at night, and you think the dark figure in the road ahead may be a child, or it could be just a shadow of a tree across the road, do you drive into it, or slow down and be sure it's not a person? If you find someone lying by the side of the road who may be dead or alive, what's the best policy? To assume he's alive and try to save him, or to assume he's dead and just walk away?
- Medical textbooks and scientific reference works consistently agree that human life begins at conception. There actually is medical and scientific consensus, even among scientists who have no vested interest in the abortion issue. Alcorn cites textbook after textbook on embryology that all say the same thing: at conception, a new human life has begun. In fact, some of the world's most prominent scientists and physicians have testified to a US Senate committee that human life begins at conception

Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth, Harvard University Medical School: "It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive... *It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception....* Our laws, one function of which is to help preserve the lives of our people, should be based on accurate data."

Dr. Hymie Gordon (Mayo Clinic): "By all criteria of modern molecular biology, life is present from the moment of conception."

Dr. Alfred Bongioanni (University of Pennsylvania): “I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception.”

Dr. Jerome LeJeune, “the Father of Modern Genetics” (University of Descartes, Paris): “To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion . . . it is plain experimental evidence.”

Dr. Bernard Nathanson, internationally known obstetrician and gynecologist, was a founder of what is now the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), and owned and operated what was at the time the largest abortion clinic in the western hemisphere. He was directly involved in over 60,000 abortions... until the development of ultrasound allowed him to know the truth: the fetuses he was aborting were CLEARLY HUMAN BEINGS... BABIES!!! He realized he had made a horrible mistake, and was deeply troubled by the fact that he had presided over 60,000 deaths. He subsequently made a famous film *The Silent Scream* which depicted a preborn human being trying desperately to survive. His convictions at that time were completely biological, medical, and ethical. He was still an atheist.

The Official Senate Report in Senate Bill 158, the “Human Life Bill,” summarized the issue in this way:

“Physicians, biologists, and other scientists agree that *conception marks the beginning of the life of a human being*—a being that is alive and is a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in countless medical, biological, and scientific writings.” [Alcorn, 55]

SO... it is simply NOT TRUE that there is no scientific or medical consensus on when life begins

**2. “The fetus is just part of a pregnant woman’s body, like her tonsils or appendix. You can’t seriously believe a frozen embryo is an actual person.”**

- Philosopher Mortimer Adler claimed that the unborn is “a part of the mother’s body, in the same sense that an individual’s arm or leg is a part

of a living organism. An individual's decision to have an arm or leg amputated falls within the sphere of privacy—the freedom

- BUT this is not true at all! A body part is defined by the common genetic code it shares with the rest of its body; but the unborn's genetic code differs from his mother's
- Every cell in the mother's tonsils, appendix, heart, lungs shares the same genetic code. The unborn child also has a genetic code, distinctly different from his mother's. Every cell of his body is uniquely his, each different than every cell of his mother's body. Often his blood type is also different, and half the time, even his gender is different
- Just as no two people have identical fingerprints, so no two people have identical genetic codes. If one body is inside another, but each has its own unique genetic code, then there is not one person, but two separate people
- The child may die and the mother live, or the mother may die and the child live, proving they are two separate individuals
- In July of 2000, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill making it illegal to execute a pregnant woman... the only logical reason for doing this is the legal status of the preborn baby as a human person protectable under the law; AMAZINGLY, hundreds of proabortion representatives voted for this bill, demonstrating a profound failure to be morally consistent
- Actually, the unborn child takes an active role in controlling his own time in the mother's womb; the embryo stops his mother's monthly cycle and makes her womb habitable by developing a placenta and protective capsule of fluid for himself; and it is the preborn baby that initiates labor, deciding biologically that the time has come to be born; the mother's body is the responder in every case, at every stage

**3. “The unborn is an embryo or a fetus—just a simple blob of tissue, a product of conception—not a baby. Abortion is terminating a pregnancy, not killing a child.”**

- Strangely, many Pro-Choice people claim to be personally anti-abortion; so they don't believe this statement; Hillary Clinton has repeatedly said, “Let's make abortion safe, legal, funded, and RARE.” Why RARE?? If



the fetus simply a blob of tissue, then there is no need to make abortion rare

- The words *embryo* and *fetus* are generally employed to depersonalize the child; politically, it's very hard to make headway claiming for the right to kill your baby; *fetus* is just Latin for "young one" or "little child"; even worse is the term, *product of conception* shortened to POC. All this is to avoid using the B-word (baby)
- Semantics can change perceptions and salve consciences, but they don't change reality
- Concerning the development of the child, prior to the earliest abortions, the unborn already has every body part he/she will ever have; at 18 days after conception, the heart is forming and the eyes start to develop; by 21 days, the heart is not only beating but pumping blood throughout the body; by 28 days, the unborn has budding arms and legs; by 30 days, the baby has multiplied in size 10,000 times; the baby now has a brain and blood is flowing through her veins; by 35 days, mouth, ears, and nose are already taking shape; at 40 days, the baby's brainwaves can be measured; the child's heartbeat (which started three weeks ago) can now be heard by an ultrasonic stethoscope; by 42 days, the skeleton is formed, and the brain is controlling the movement of muscles and organs; the unborn reflexively responds to stimulus and may already be capable of feeling pain... THIS IS ALL BEFORE THE EARLIEST ABORTIONS TAKE PLACE!!!!
- By 8 weeks, the hands and feet are almost perfectly formed and fingerprints are developing
- By 9 weeks, a child will bend fingers around an object placed in the palm; fingernails are forming, and the child is already sucking her thumb
- By 10 weeks, the child squints, swallows, frowns
- All of this happens in the first trimester, the first three months of life; in the remaining six months in the womb, nothing new develops or begins functioning... the child only grows or matures

**4. "A fetus isn't a person until quickening or viability, when it first breathes."**

- It is dangerous for one class of persons to deny personhood to another class of persons
- To say you are not a person if you need support to breathe, like those on life support, is a very dangerous ethical path to travel
- There are many who are fully human, and yet totally dependent on others to survive
- Personhood depends on genetic identity—humanity—not on function, ability, skills, performance, or location
- The ethics of the strong defining/denying personhood for the weak should be morally repulsive
- Peter Singer, the Princeton philosopher and ethicist, is a leading spokesman for this kind of morally repulsive ethic:

“When the death of a disabled infant will lead to the birth of another infant with better prospects of a happy life, the total amount of happiness will be greater if the disabled infant is killed. The loss of a happy life for the first infant is outweighed by the gain of a happier life for the second. Therefore, if killing the hemophiliac infant has no adverse effect on others, it would, according to the total view, be right to kill him.” [Peter Singer, “In His Own Words.”]

## B. Secondly, Zero In On Arguments Concerning Rights and Fairness

### 1. **“Even if the unborn are human beings, they have fewer rights than the woman. No one should be expected to donate her body as a life-support system for someone else.”**

- Once we grant that the unborn are human beings, it should settle the question of their right to live
- The unborn’s humanity is the single most important issue in the entire question
- In *Roe v Wade*, Justice Harry Blackmun stated, “We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins.” Actually, as we’ve already shown, this question is not difficult at all... there is not a single

reputable ob-gyn source or neo-natology expert that would say that life begins somewhere else down the line from conception

- A fetus is not a human being if the woman chooses it, and a blob of tissue if she doesn't
- This ethic of depersonalizing and dehumanizing the preborn also strips *us* of our humanity
- The right to live doesn't increase with your size and capabilities; otherwise toddlers and adolescents would have less right to live than adults
- Furthermore, the comparison between the mother's rights and a baby's rights is unequal; what's really at stake in abortion is the mother's lifestyle as opposed to the baby's life

**2. "Every person has the right to choose. It would be unfair to restrict a woman's choice by prohibiting abortion."**

- BUT any civilized society restricts the individual's freedom to choose, when that choice would harm an innocent person
- And the slogan "freedom to choose" is too vague for a meaningful discussion; we must always ask, "Freedom to choose what??" Pro-lifers aren't "Anti-choice", but it cannot be said that "Pro-choicers" aren't "pro-abortion"... in most cases they are simply pro-abortion, not pro-choice
- Amazingly: the so-called "pro-choice" people in the US have not opposed either of these issues... they say they are pro-women, but they refuse to speak up for baby girls that are aborted simply because they are female; they say they are pro-choice, but they refuse to speak out about the clear abrogation of choice in China where the government FORCES women to have abortions AGAINST THEIR CHOICE!! Actually, in 2001, when the Bush Administration cut off funding for China in part because of this forced abortion policy, Planned Parenthood issued a statement opposing what the President had done!
- Also, in 2002, when the state of South Carolina issued specialty license plates for cars that said "CHOOSE LIFE", Planned Parenthood opposed it vigorously... ironic

- Why did Planned Parenthood oppose this message? They say they are not pro-abortion, they are pro-choice. The message on the plates was clearly about choice: it was only two words, and one of them was "choose". The plates said nothing about stopping abortion or limiting choice in any way. Indeed, one might well wonder why it was not Planned Parenthood supporting these plates and Right to Life fighting them: Surely one could argue that to say "choose life" implies agreement with the idea that this is a choice that each individual should make, and that while we might encourage people to choose life, other choices are also good and valid. If Planned Parenthood is truly "pro-choice", shouldn't they applaud anyone who proudly declares that she has exercised her right to choose, regardless of what choice she makes?
- Also, Planned Parenthood spends an overwhelming amount of their efforts on abortions, not on helping women choose to keep their babies
- It very much seems like the pro-choice movement is really nothing more than a pro-abortion movement!

**3. “The circumstances of many women leave them no choice but to have an abortion.”**

- This is the language of despair... and Satan specializes in despair
- The option Satan sells is “Abortion or misery”
- It is precisely here that Christians must speak hope into a woman’s heart... hope in Christ, hope for the future of herself and her baby

*1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

**4. “I’m personally against abortion, but I’m still prochoice. It’s a legal alternative and we don’t have the right to keep it from anyone. Everyone’s free to believe what they want, but we shouldn’t try to impose it on others.”**

- To be prochoice about abortion IS to be proabortion; there’s no escaping that; it’s like being personally against drug use, but against

imposing that belief on others so you support the legalizing of heroin or cocaine

Randy Alcorn: “I’ve often heard people say, ‘Don’t call me proabortion. I’m not proabortion; I’m prochoice.’ My response to this statement is always the same: ‘*Why* are you opposed to being called proabortion? Is there something wrong with abortion?’” [p. 133]

- The only good reasons for being personally against abortion are also reasons that demand we be against other people choosing to have abortions: the HUMANITY OF THE UNBORN
- What’s legal is not always right!!! Slavery was legal in the days before the Civil War, and the Supreme Court upheld it in the Dred Scott decision; that didn’t make it right!

#### IV. Extinguishing the Flaming Arrows of Satan’s Discouragement

- A. Satan Specializes in Ministering Despair to the Human Heart
- B. The Flaming Arrow of Discouragement to the Woman (and the People in Her Life) in a Crisis Pregnancy
- C. The Flaming Arrow of Discouragement to the Pro-Life Cause, that We Will Never Win this Battle
- D. The Flaming Arrow of Guilt and Accusation to All Who Feel Guilty About this Issue

#### V. Applications

- A. Trust in Christ as Savior
- B. Lean on Christ for Forgiveness... His Grace is Infinite and Completely Able to Cover Us
- C. Lift Up the Shield of Faith!!!
- D. Be Willing to Challenge Faulty Arguments While Loving Opposing People
- E. Be a Part of the Positive Answers Christians Have Given to Crisis Pregnancies: PSS Ministry or Adoption

## F. Pray Daily for the End of Abortion