

**Moral Issues of Our Time**  
**Lesson 5 – Abortion, Suicide and the Sanctity of Life**  
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**Introduction:** How can we apply the Bible in modern times?

- A. Some under the argument of “cultural context” make the Bible without application to our times.
1. God delivered the scriptures by design to influence various cultures then. What kind of cultures did the Bible reach in the 1<sup>st</sup> century? (**Mt 28:18-20**)
  2. The words delivered through the apostles would bring the conditions of salvation to all cultures and generations. (**Jn 17:8, 14, 20; Acts 2:38-39**)
  3. The churches in various geographic locations and cultures of that day would teach and practice the same thing in every church. (**1 Cor 4:17; 7:17; 14:33-34**)
- B. We are to take the principles given in scripture and apply them to today’s issues.
1. We are urged to do so when considering the works of the flesh. What issues today fall under the category of “and the like.” (**Gal 5:21**)
  2. The principles dealing with the drug alcohol can be applied to modern day drugs.

**I. Abortion is the taking of an innocent life**

- A. Life is a great gift from God! (**Gen 1:26-27; 2:7**)
1. How can we destroy a gift that no man can make?
  2. There is nothing more innocent than a child.
- B. There is clear evidence in the scripture that life begins in the womb.
1. God formed Jerimiah in the womb. (**Jer 1:5**)
  2. The Psalmist affirms a growing person within the womb. (**Ps 139:13-16**)
  3. John the Baptist at 6 months in the womb leaped with joy at the presence of the newly conceived Jesus also in Mary’s womb. (**Lk 1:36, 41-44**)
  4. The same word translated “babe” to describe a child within the womb also describes a newborn or older! (**Lk 1:41, 44; 2:12, 16; 18:15**)
- C. When then does life begin?
1. Does life begin at conception? If not, how can it be clearly determined at what point after conception that life begins? Without certainty we must not tamper with life at any point.
  2. I then must treat the formation of an embryo as life regardless if it is conceived in the womb or in a petri dish! An embryo has a unique DNA!
  3. Similar language to conception is used to describe the conversion process. (**1 Cor 4:15**)
- D. Abortion is never an option for one who fears God.

1. Abortion is the removal from the uterus the embryo created from conception. "The premature expulsion from the uterus of the products of conception," conception, of course, occurring at the time of impregnation of the ovum by the sperm (Darland's Medical Dictionary). |

2. Abortion is a huge billion dollar industry. Planned Parenthood preformed 333,964 abortions in 2012. In human terms that is one lost life every 94 seconds.

3. The graphic details of real life abortions are heart breaking. Listen to the hidden videos of those that describe the process.

<http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/cmp/investigative-footage/>

4. What is the *most common reason* for a woman to seek an abortion?
5. I had a close friend while a student at Auburn obtained an abortion. *Depression is still a factor in her life* today.

"I was told by Planned Parenthood that this little 'blob of tissue' would be as easily removed as a wart. I was never told that I would have nightmares about babies crying in the night. Neither was it explained previous to the abortion that I would experience severe depressions in which I would contemplate suicide" (Cong. Record p.S.10651). Further, numerous studies reveal that women who have had an abortion experience a high incidence of depression, stress, low self-esteem, suicidal feelings and substance abuse.

## ***II. Suicide can be described as self-murder***

A. A responsible person that takes his life *has committed a sin*.

1. I am *not including all who commit suicide*. Mental health issues can create situations where one is not responsible.
2. We must realize that *God knows each one's heart* and is just and merciful.

B. Consider the *spiritual condition* of the ones committing suicide in the Bible.

1. Saul had lived a long life of rebellion that became worse with time. When he faced death *he had no remorse about his sin or meeting God. (1 Sam 31:4-5)*
2. Judas was remorseful but not before God. **(Mt 27:3-5)**
3. Our lives can become miserable because of a long departure from God! God wished that *pain to lead to repentance and an abundant life! (Jn 10:10)*
4. Sadly many never turn and seek the Lord. **(Rev 9:5-6)**

C. Job serves as an example of *how to handle times of great misery*.

1. God knows us and will allow times of testing. **(Job 3:1, 11-13, 20-21, 24-26)**
2. Job's wife urged him to curse God and die. (Job 2:9)
3. His friends gathered to console him, but their suggestions and advice only wearied him the more.
4. Here is the response of one who trusts God. "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" **(Job 2:10)**

D. Facts about suicide

1. For every successful attempt there are 24 failures.
2. On average, there are 121 suicides per day.
3. Suicide is the SECOND leading cause of death for college-age and ages 12-18.

E. Warning signs of suicide

**Excessive sadness or moodiness:** Long-lasting sadness, mood swings, and unexpected rage.

**Hopelessness:** Feeling a deep sense of hopelessness about the future, with little expectation that circumstances can improve.

**Sleep problems.**

**Sudden calmness:** Suddenly becoming calm after a period of depression or moodiness can be a sign that the person has made a decision to end his or her life.

**Withdrawal:** Choosing to be alone and avoiding friends or social activities also are possible symptoms of depression, a leading cause of suicide. This includes the loss of interest or pleasure in activities the person previously enjoyed.

**Changes in personality and/or appearance:** A person who is considering suicide might exhibit a change in attitude or behavior, such as speaking or moving with unusual speed or slowness. In addition, the person might suddenly become less concerned about his or her personal appearance.