

Question Night – September 2014
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Introduction: We should never stop studying and learning.

- A. As we continually seek God we will be continually learning. (**Heb 11:6**)
 - 1. We should never fear that we might be wrong and then close our minds. It is like a person who is afraid of cancer and then refuses to go to the Doctor!
 - 2. Look at the Patriarchs and even the apostles. They had to face some difficult truths about God's will and their own personal lives.
- B. This study is very brief and should be used as a catalyst for additional study.

I. How was Jesus forsaken by the Father in Matthew 27:46? Did Jesus ever become a sinner before God when He acted as a sacrifice?

- A. There is room for debate and careful consideration on this subject.
 - 1. Some conclude that Jesus bore the wrath of God as a sinner having our sins becoming His.
 - 2. Consider two verses that some view this way. (**Mt 27:46; 2 Cor 5:21**)
- B. Consider the context of **Psalm 22** where the Holy Spirit gives more detail.
 - 1. The 1st half of this chapter is a contrast between what Jesus sees with His eyes and what He knows from God's word and His knowledge of God's character.
 - 2. From His eyes He appears to be forsaken (**Ps 22:1-2**) but He knows that God does not forsake His people but has abundantly delivered them throughout time to the extent that He is "enthroned upon the praises of Israel." (**Ps 22:3-5**)
 - 3. From His eyes He appears "a worm and no man" declared to be guilty and worthy of scorn (**Ps 22:6-8**) but He knows that He has depended on God from birth and now knows that He is near to help. God has never let Him down.
 - 4. This pattern continues until He is delivered! "You have answered Me." (**Ps 22:21b**)
- C. Jesus taught others that God would never forsake Him or any other faithful person. He was specific to the cross! (**Jn 8:29; 16:32-33**)
- D. Let us all unite in the language of scripture and be careful about possible conclusions. We all agree that Jesus paid the price for our sins as a sacrifice. (**1 Pt 1:18-19**)

II. In the abortion debate some say that life begins once a child is born. How can we determine when life begins?

- A. There is clear evidence in the scripture that life begins in the womb.
 - 1. God formed Jeremiah 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**)

B. When then does life begin in the womb?

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 in the womb.
2. Similar language is used to describe the conversion process. (**1 Cor 4:15**)
3. Technology and government has made abortion easier. Consider one young Christian woman who feared having a child before marriage.

III. How can we better help our new members who may be struggling with loneliness?

- A. Loneliness is the pain caused by the desire for companionship. We need others!
 1. Paul experienced the pain of standing alone. (**2 Tim 4:16**)
 2. There are events that can suddenly thrust us from a world surrounded by people to a hostile world where we are alone. (**Job 29:4-12; 30:10-11, 26-29**)
 3. There is a good probability that you will walk down this path in your life!
- B. One can be lonely in the midst of people!
 1. There is a longing for a certain kind of companionship. A companion to share your joys and to bear your hurts.
 2. It may be the longing for just one person to do this.
 3. This should be what people find here at this church! (**1 Cor 12:23-26**)

IV. How can parents help a child that makes a sudden turn to become part of a new religious group?

- A. Upon what basis does a child make such a change? Paul made a change based upon truth to stand with the Lord. (**Phil 3:4-9**)
 1. All conversions to the Lord is based upon truth.
 2. Those who are converted to the Lord will openly tell others why they made such a stand and will openly let their beliefs be tested.
(1 Pt 3:15; Jn 3:19-21)
 3. Some make changes based upon relationships. Truth is not the cause.
- B. Understand how Satan uses relationships to separate brethren. (**Gal 4:16-17**)
 1. Often a young person is influenced in the background in "darkness."
 2. Bitterness and pride is a powerful tool of Satan to shut the mind down.
(James 3:14; Deut 29:14-19)
 3. These groups will work hard to destroy relationships.
 4. Some parents are as unstable as their children and follow after them in their departures and then label God's people as a sect!
 5. Try to teach ahead of time how Satan works to plant bitterness towards brethren as a means to teach false doctrine! (**1 Jn 2:9-11**)