



IMPARTING  
**GOD'S WISDOM...**

1COR.2:6-7

**APOLOGETICS 4**







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NOTES

# PREPARING TO TEACH

Congratulations! What an awesome responsibility it is to participate in the discipleship and education of adult believers. By His amazing grace, our triune God moves His people from death to life through the process of justification and sanctification. We are in constant need of heart transformation, mind renewal, and behavior change. The Christian life is to be one of growth and maturity in order to glorify God by loving Him and other people. To that end, God has given His people His Word and all truth to learn and to apply. And, He has blessed us with gifted teachers like you.

This Teacher's Manual is designed for a 13-week adult discipleship class or Sunday School. The format is mainly lecture, but can include as much discussion as your context allows. Each lesson is divided into three segments: **Opening, Rewind,** and **Bible Implementation.**

The **Opening** is where you start. It offers introductory information about the theological topic being taught. Each lesson gives important content to increase knowledge of God's truth.

The next section is the **Rewind.** It allows the students to have a brief review, connecting them back to what was previously taught. Context and review is essential when teaching and learning.

The heart and soul of the lesson is the **Bible Implementation** time. Each lesson takes the students through the theological subject by implementing foundational Scriptures. God's Word is read and discussed, making **observations** and **application** along the way. Ultimately, you are teaching the students to develop their theology by a proper study of the Bible.

**Teaching Theological Studies.** Adults need to grow in their love for and understanding of sound theology: truth about God and His work in His world. This curriculum teaches from an evangelical, Christ-centered, Reformed theological perspective. It grounds all of its theological propositions in God's Word, supported by a Biblical theology. Always teach your students how to think Biblically about God and His world. Rather than simply sharing opinions, the goal is to observe, understand, and apply what is true.

Ultimately, you prepare to teach others theological truths by a growing dependence on the Word and the Spirit. Grow in that grace as you teach.

# LESSON ONE / IS ABORTION A SIN?

## OVERVIEW

Even though abortion is legal in the United States, it continues to be a hotly debated issue, especially for Christians. Those who oppose abortion define it as the murder of innocent unborn children. Those who support abortion prefer to define abortion as simply the medical termination of a pregnancy. Just those differences in definitions define the foundations of the conflict on this issue.

There are many arguments which must be confronted in order to stand on the truth that abortion is a sin. A first argument is that abortion is legal, therefore it's not a sin. But what if a law of man violates the law of God? A second argument is that the life in the womb is not fully developed, so therefore it is not human. So, when does human life begin? And what is this "fetus" before it "becomes" a human? A third argument is similar—the life is just human tissue connected to a woman, so it is her property. Again, one must re-define human life to reduce it to a tissue sample! How can a human being be the property of another?

The arguments over abortion continue with this one: The woman has the right to do whatever she wants to with her own body. Again, this presupposes that an unborn baby is just part of a woman's body. Two of the more challenging arguments are: An abortion is right if there has been rape or incest, or if the life of the mother is threatened. If we believe abortion is murder, is murder ever right? Finally, abortionists argue that this is a women's rights issue. Does a woman have the right to do anything she wants?

## APPLICATION ▶

- Human laws are meant to reflect God's laws. When they are contrary to God's laws, which are Christians to obey?
- God knows people! The fetus is a person!
- No, this not just human tissue; he or she is a human being, made in the image of God!
- Human beings do not have the right to do anything with their bodies they desire.
- Abortion is a crime that kills a baby and does great damage to all the family involved.
- Taking the life of the baby when the mom's life is at risk is not simply a choice to abort—it's truly a life and death decision.



## OPENING

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors. Open with prayer.**

*For the next several lessons, we will think through how to do the work of apologetics with a particular type of friend. Here's the first one: **Your friend is an atheist.***

*So where would you begin with your atheist friend? **Would you start by trying to PROVE that God exists?***

*Or, would you just begin with praying that the Holy Spirit would change His heart? **Is this all you could do?***

*Or, would you ask questions to see what he really believes about God? **What questions would you ask?***

*How about some of these questions: If God doesn't exist, where did we come from? If God doesn't exist, what is our purpose in life? If God doesn't exist, where do we go when we die? Would you ever ask a friend how he became an atheist? Would it be helpful to know how he arrived at his conclusion?*

*Don't give up on your friends who claim to be atheists. Sometimes they just need a friend who will love them with the love of Christ! And, a friend who will be patient and kind, instead of just judgmental. Yet, the atheist does need to be challenged that his presuppositions are wrong!*



## REWIND

*Each week, we will review what we have learned in the past. Today, we will remind ourselves of the definition of APOLOGETICS again. **Who can give me a good definition of apologetics?***

*The Greek word "apologia" often refers to the activity of giving a verbal defense. So, apologetics is the discipline of defending one's beliefs.*

*Or, to put it another way, apologetics is the work of convincing others to change their beliefs. Christian apologetics is the defense of the Christian faith, doctrine, and practice.*



# BIBLE IMPLEMENTATION



**Introduction:** *Today, we will begin a new section of questions that relate to our CHRISTIAN MINDS. In other words, these are cultural and societal issues that Christians need to think Biblically about. Too often, we are silent in the debate about ideas and activities of this world. Yet, as good apologists, we must engage our minds and defend the truth in a world of deception and lies. So, here's our question of the day:*

## ***Is abortion a sin?***

*In America, the fight over abortion has been a long-standing one. Back in 1973, abortion became legal in our nation, but that doesn't necessarily mean it's right. So, let's begin with a definition, and then deal with the common support for abortion.*

## ***What is abortion?***

**Observations: Who can define it for me?** *A person who is against abortion would probably define it as: "the murder of an innocent unborn child." A person who supports abortion would probably define it as: "a medical or surgical termination of a pregnancy." Do you see how important definitions are? That leads us to the first argument supporting abortion...*

## ***Argument #1: Abortion is legal, therefore it is not a sin.***

**Observations:** *If a person has an abortion in the United States, she is not breaking the law. Does that automatically mean she is not violating God's Law? If abortion is the killing of an unborn child, are there laws in Scripture against that?*

*How about this one? Read Exodus 20:13.*

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder."

*And, this one. Read Genesis 9:8.*

<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image."

- **Application:** *Just because man says something is legal doesn't mean that God approves of it. Human laws are meant to reflect God's laws. When they are contrary to God's laws, which are Christians to obey? God's laws!*



**Argument #2: The life in the womb is not fully developed, therefore it is not human.**

**Observations:** You've probably heard that some people would rather refer to the "life in the womb" as a FETUS instead of a CHILD. This argument is all about that distinction. So, if this fetus is not really a human being, then it isn't murder to kill it. But if it isn't a human being, then what is it? And, when exactly does this non-human become a human?

**So how would you respond to this argument?**

First, you need to address this false premise: that a human being is only human when it is fully developed! This "fetus" doesn't change into a human at some point; if it has human DNA, it is human, however developed it is!

Even if this premise is accepted, when does full development occur? If this argument is saying that life doesn't have value until it is fully developed, then we have yet another problem, don't we? The bottom line is it's impossible to truly argue that the life in the womb is not really human life.

Listen to the prophet Jeremiah. **Read Jeremiah 1:5.**

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

► **Application:** Does this verse make it sound like a life in the womb is a real person? God KNOWS people!

**Argument #3: The human tissue is produced by the woman, so it is her property.**

**Observations:** Some supporters of abortion don't even call it a fetus—they say it's just human tissue. If it is just tissue, then it belongs to the woman whom it is connected to, right? Then, the logic goes, she can do whatever she wants to with that tissue—sort of like getting a mole or a cyst removed.

**What do you say about this argument?** Is a growing person in someone else's body the same as a person's own body tissue? A heart, or a lung, or a kidney is certainly not going to become a human one day. So this "fetal tissue" is qualitatively different. It may technically be "produced" by the woman, but it is a separate person all together (or at least will become one). The baby has its

own body, so it is defined by that body—not the mother’s. And, does it bother you to talk about the baby as “property?” Is this a dog or a houseplant?



- ▶ **Application:** *No, this not just human tissue; it is a human being, made in the image of God!*

**Argument #4: The woman has the right to do whatever she wants to do with her body.**

**Observations:** *Since this “fetus” is growing inside of the woman, it is technically part of her body. This is why supporters of abortion take the name “pro-choice”—a woman alone has the right to choose what to do with her own body.*

*This is similar to the last argument. **So, how would you refute it?** Can it logically be said that a growing human being is “part” of a woman’s body? At some point, it will no longer be attached to her! Even during the time that this human is “part” of the woman, does she have the right to do anything she wants to her body? Can she cut off her own limbs? Does she have the right to mutilate herself?*

*What about this passage? **Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.***

*<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

- ▶ **Application:** *Human beings do not have the right to do anything with their bodies. And, again, a baby is not even really a part of the mother; it is a separate being “carried” by the woman!*

**Argument #5: In abortion, no one is hurt since the fetus is not a person.**

**Observations:** *We have already heard part of this argument. Abortion is not murder because the fetus is not a person. And, there should be no objection, because no one is hurt.*

**Since we have already debunked the myth that a fetus is not a person, what do you do with the rest of this argument?** *Even if you believe the fetus is not a human yet, does the mother and father not get “hurt” in the process of an abortion? Wouldn’t you think that the parents could already have feelings for this baby, and could be psychologically harmed for aborting it? Just because people want to believe a human is just a fetus doesn’t make it so.*



▶ **Application:** *Abortion is a crime that kills a baby and does great damage to all the family involved!*

**Argument #6: Rape and incest are reasons for an abortion.**

**Observations:** *If a woman becomes pregnant because of rape or incest, she should not have to give birth to the child. She should have the right to choose to end the pregnancy.*

*This is a tough one, isn't it? Rape and incest are certainly horrible crimes that can produce a child in the womb. **So, how can Christians be against abortion in these cases?** As the old saying goes: "Two wrongs don't make a right." Just because we sympathize with a woman and agree that she has been wronged, doesn't mean it becomes right to murder a child. And, is it the baby's fault that he or she was conceived by rape or incest?*

**Argument #7: Abortion is justified to save the life of the mother.**

**Observations:** *According to this argument, if there is a medical problem or crisis, and the only way to save the mother's life is to abort the baby, then it isn't wrong.*

*This is another tough argument that Christians can stumble over. Of course, we would want to save both lives, if possible. But if we have to actually choose, whose life is more important? And, why not just choose to try to save both lives and trust God for the outcome?*

**What are your thoughts?**

▶ **Application:** *Taking the life of the baby in this case is not simply a choice to abort—it's truly a tough life and death decision.*

**Argument #9: Denying abortion is restricting women's rights.**

**Observations:** *Abortion has become deeply connected with the political movement for women's rights. This argument says that no man should be able to tell a woman what she can do with her body.*

*Again, we have heard this argument already. **What do you say about it?** Do any of us have unlimited rights in this life, according to God's Word? Does a woman have the right to murder an innocent baby?*

**Conclusion: Abortion is a sin.**

- *It is wrong to murder a person.*
- *An unborn baby in the womb is a person.*
- *An unborn baby cannot defend himself.*
- *A unborn baby is made in the image of God.*
- *Christians are to protect human life!*

*According to God's Law, abortion is a sin. But, that's not the end of the story. Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, even the sin of abortion can be forgiven. So, as you defend the truth about abortion, don't ever forget to sympathize with people's weaknesses, sharing the love of Christ for sinners!*

