



# untouchables : abortion

Consider the situation where a woman shares with you that she has just learned that very day that she is pregnant. She is a professing Christian person with a steady boyfriend not engaged or living with her boy-friend.

1. What initial issues of care would you expect to deal with? How would you minister to her?

2. After a while she tells you that she feels strongly that she wants to have an abortion. She also wants to know your opinion concerning this? How would you discuss this with her?

3. In your discussion above to what extent would you base your ethical advice on maximising good outcomes from various options and to what extent is your advice based on Bible directives? An example of the 1st is discussing what might be the emotional, economic or personal costs for her of an abortion, of adoption and of keeping the child. An example of the 2nd is a discussion of 'what has God revealed concerning his will for you here'

Note: Consequential ethics (the 1st kind) is often helpful but it is hard to have a full knowledge of the future. Sometimes consequential ethics wrongly replaces God's directions to us in the Scriptures (the 2nd kind).

## **Biblical and other related issues**

4. Is there clarity in the Bible that an unborn embryo is really a human being or potential human being? See Psalm 139:13 and Job 31:13 – 15 . Note: in these passages God is the primary workman, fashioner, shaper and knitter of the new life in the womb.

The word for 'infant' in Luke 18:15 is the same word that Luke uses for 'unborn infant' in Elizabeth's womb in Luke 1: 41, 44. What does this suggest?

5. What value does God put on human life? E.g. Exodus 20: 13 and Jer 22:3

6. Are there grey areas where you would recommend an abortion? Justify your answer.

7. Should Christians seek to influence  
a. others b. government to protect the rights of the unborn? Why or why not?