

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made 2

By Al Felder

“¹³For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶Thine eyes did see my substances, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.” (Psalm 139:13-16)

We continue our discussion from this morning and notice the same psalm regarding life. David, by inspiration of the Spirit writes of a time that he certainly could not remember. A time in which he dwelt microscopically inside of his mother’s womb and began to develop. It is a story of life unseen and unnoticed by man, but observed and maintained by God.

Not all people share this wonderful view of life. To some, life is not fearfully and wonderfully made. It has little or no meaning and can easily be discarded. How can some people have such a low appreciation for life? We will discuss this in the second part to our lesson “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.”

The year was 1973 and on January 22 the Supreme Court of the United States made a ruling in a landmark case. The case was based out of Texas and it was over the right of a woman to terminate an unwanted pregnancy. In the court’s ruling it stated that a State may not impose any restrictions on an abortion performed within the first trimester of pregnancy. Just like that, Roe v. Wade opened the door for legalized abortions within the United States. Since that time there has been an average of 1.5 million babies aborted annually.

Abortion is the painful killing of an innocent life through burning, smothering, dismembering, or crushing. Imagine if you will the beautiful scene described by the psalmist as life develops in the womb. One moment God is beholding a future king and deliverer of his people and the next a pair of forceps is removing David and a needle is injecting him with a solution that will kill him in a matter of moments. This is the reality of abortion.

Unfortunately today many people do not see children as the blessing that they are. *“³Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. ⁴As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. ⁵Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.” (Psalm 127:3-5)* Children are a gift from the Lord and any couple who has them should be proud.

What is the cause of this lack of value for human life? Many ancient civilizations have often killed their unwanted children. Both the Greeks and the Romans would kill any child who was born with a deformity of any kind. Then, of course, there were the sacrifices made to false gods. *“Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter?”* (Ezekiel 16:20) In this instance, God’s own people had been guilty of the horrendous act. They took their own children and sacrificed them to a god of their own making. This was a detestable act in the sight of God.

Yet, for our discussion today there are more recent factors for why anyone would kill their child. In 1883 Francis Galton coined the phrase eugenics. The term means good in birth and was used to promote the idea of being well born. Galton was a cousin of Charles Darwin and he was heavily influenced by Darwin’s book *Origin of Species*. Galton sought to apply Darwin’s theories of natural and artificial selection to man. He stated, “Could not the undesirables be got rid of and the desirables multiplied?”¹ As the movement grew certain men took it upon themselves to weed out what they considered undesirable traits among the human gene pool.

Another man who was greatly influenced by Darwin’s work during this time period was Ernst Haeckel. Haeckel took Darwin’s ideas and believed that an embryo repeated the stages of evolution while developing in the womb. As a result of this idea, it was believed that embryos had gills and a tail as well as other features while they went through the process of evolution in the womb. In other words, life in the womb was not human life. There is only one problem with this theory. Haeckel faked his own evidence in order to prove his point. He later admitted to altering drawings of embryos so that they would support his theory. Despite this fact, Haeckel’s theories are still used by some today and they even appear in some biology text books.

Then, in the early 1900’s Margaret Sanger was another influential figure who heavily believed in Darwin’s work. To give you an idea of her beliefs listen to the following quote from her.

“The emergency problem of segregation and sterilization must be faced immediately. Every feeble-minded girl or woman of the hereditary type, especially of the moron class, should be segregated during the reproductive period. Otherwise, she is almost certain to bear imbecile children, who in turn are just as certain to breed other defectives....Moreover, when we realize that each feeble-minded person is a potential source of an endless progeny of defect, we prefer the policy of immediate sterilization, of making sure that parenthood is absolutely prohibited to the feeble-minded.”²

¹ Ham, Ken. 2011. *The New Answers Book 3*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. p. 163.

² —. 2011. *The New Answers Book 3*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. pp. 167, 168.

In this quote, Sanger advocates for the sterilization of those she considers to be less intelligent, but this is not the full extent of her views. She also made the following comment, “The most merciful thing a large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it.”³ Here she advocates infanticide due to her dislike of large families. Sanger, by the way, was the founder of Planned Parenthood.

The influence of each of these individuals still exists today. With the evolutionists belief that man is really nothing more than an animal comes a decline in morality. In fact, many children are aborted today for no other reason than the fact that they are an unwanted consequence of sexual activity outside of marriage. *“Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful.”* (Romans 1:31) As God chronicles the downward slope of a people who has forgotten Him, we notice that natural affections go along with the rest of morality. When morals decline parents no longer have the care and concern for their children that they should naturally have.

At the very heart of this matter is the question, when does life become human life? You see, due to the teachings of evolution some people will admit that there is life in the womb, it’s just not human life. To them a fetus is something that will one day be a human.

When the seed of the male and the female meet for fertilization, at that very instance a new life is formed. At conception a distinct individual with its own DNA emerges. This is the state that David describes when God formed his inward parts and skillfully made him in the womb.

As we continue to search the scriptures it is amazing to see how God refers to life in the womb. *“²¹And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. ²²And the children struggles together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord.”* (Genesis 25:21, 22) Notice if you will how God describes Jacob and Esau as they existed in their mother’s womb. They were not some non-human life. Instead, God refers to them as children. Each time that the Bible speaks of the unborn, it is in reference to an actual person.

Let’s turn our thoughts once again to the Genesis account of creation. *“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”* (Genesis 1:28) God created Adam from the ground and he took a rib from Adam’s side to form Eve. Upon their creation, God gave them the command to be fruitful and multiply. The only possible result of this union was more people, not some sub-

³ —. 2011. *The New Answers Book 3*. Green Forest, AR : Master Books, 2011. p. 167.

human creature going through the stages of evolution. Humans produce humans just as dogs produce dogs and cats produce cats.

One of the most touching passages of scripture that indicates that there is indeed human life within the womb is found in the New Testament. *“And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost.”* (Luke 1:41) What a magnificent scene! In this passage of scripture Mary, the mother of Jesus, goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was the mother of John the Baptist. As soon as Mary enters John leaps for joy within his mother’s womb at the presence of his Savior as the baby Jesus began to develop within Mary. If that is not scriptural evidence of human life existing before birth, I don’t know what is.

Another passage that proves life exists in the womb is found in Jeremiah. *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nation.”* (Jeremiah 1:5) Notice that the passage implies personhood to the unborn Jeremiah. He was not something that would become Jeremiah, he was Jeremiah.

According to the Bible the unborn child should be considered as a full human being with all of the rights that belong to that status. *“²²If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman’s husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life.”* (Exodus 21:22, 23) Under the Law of Moses, if two men fighting caused a woman to have her child prematurely there were severe consequences. If the child lived, the man would suffer punishment from the woman’s husband and a fine from the judges. If the child died, however, the man’s life would be required because he had taken a life.

Instead of valuing life today many people lightly cast it aside because of the teachings of evolution. They kill unborn children for things such as stem cell research and abortion on demand. There is also medication available that can be taken in order to discard an unwanted pregnancy called the morning after pill. This is not where it ends however. Just as their predecessors did not value the life of those considered to be less desirable, some advocates of these practices today see nothing wrong with killing a newborn child. An ethicist by the name of Francesca Minerva published an article in a Medical Ethics Journal in which she advocated post birth abortions. She said, *“Both a fetus and a newborn are human beings and potential persons, but neither is a person in the sense of subject to a moral right to life.”*⁴ In other words, if the baby is not what you want, just kill it.

This reminds me of a story told by my grandmother. I have an aunt with Down syndrome. When she was born she had trouble breathing and needed the help of an oxygen

⁴ Purdom, Dr. Georgia. 2012. *Eugenics, Abortion, and Genetics*. Answers in Genesis, 2012.

machine. My great uncle went to the nursery to see his niece that had just been born, and when he arrived he was horrified at what he saw. My aunt was moved to a corner of the nursery without the aid of the machine that she so desperately needed, and she had begun to turn blue as a result of it. She was dying and the nurses didn't care. My great uncle informed them that that was his niece and they better do something immediately. My aunt has gone on to have a wonderful life and she is now 54 years old. Because of the influence of evolution, however, there are those who would have denied her that life if they had their way.

God has never devalued any human life. *"And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the Lord?"* (Exodus 4:11) The Bible never measures personhood by age, stage of development, or mental, physical, or social skills. All life is valued in the sight of God. In fact it is wrong to take the life of another person. *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."* (Genesis 9:6) Man is made in the image of God and with that fact there is a sacredness to all human life.

Instead of casting off those considered to be less desirable, the Bible commands that we protect them. *"³Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. ⁴Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked."* (Psalm 82:3, 4) God cares for each and every person and a crime against them is a crime against God.

Man did not evolve after millions of years of death, disease, and bloodshed. We are not animals. We are special because we are made in the image of God. We are fearfully and wonderfully made.