

The Rise of Molech

Abortion and the Conscience of a Nation

January 10, 2016

Part 2- The Pagan Origins of Abortion

Genesis 3:1-13

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

To the Glory of God

Now it is impossible to discuss the issue of Abortion *intelligently* without dealing with the subject of the belief system that is *behind* Abortion and that gives Abortion its credibility. Abortion does *not* stand alone. Abortion is the tragic and deadly *result* of something else. Abortion exists because something else exists. So Abortion is *not* the "religion". Abortion is *not* the "philosophy". Abortion is *not* the "logic".

Abortion is the "sacrament" on the altar of the religion of "Self". And that is *why* Abortion is defended so rigorously- it is sacred to the pagan religion that has dethroned God and replaced Him with us.

In verse 13- Eve told God,

The serpent deceived me, and I ate

And Moses wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that she was deceived by the serpent to eat because:

... the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise ...

So the philosophy and the logic- the "religion" that goes *deeper* than Abortion- that *creates* the need for, and that sustains and defends the systematic murdering of living human beings for any reason whatsoever looks "good". It looks like a "delight" and something that makes both the woman and the man- "wise". But, in fact, this pagan religion is a lie. It is false and it is deadly beyond all imagination.

I have taught you repeatedly that it is *impossible* for people to live certain ways- *long term*- in contrast to what they believe. That behind all action that is *definable* and that is *ongoing*- lies belief. And that belief is *definable*, it can be *taught* and *learned*- and that makes it a religion. And the belief system that lies behind Abortion- is – in that sense- a religion. And this pagan religion has "tenets" and "doctrines" and "discipline" that can be administered when somebody strays away from its "orthodoxy". And while it promises delight and happiness and peace- it is simply deceiving Eve's descendants all over again.

One such woman is Mary Kassian. Mary is today an outspoken critic of the religion of "Self". Today Mary is an author, popular

speaker, and a distinguished professor of women's studies at Southern Baptist Seminary. She has published several books, Bible studies and videos, including: "Girls Gone Wise", "In My Father's House: Finding Your Heart's True Home", "Conversation Peace", "Vertically Inclined", and "The Feminist Mistake". Five years ago- Mary said this:

"I remember striding down the hallway arm-in-arm with a couple of middle-school girlfriends, belting out the words of Helen Reddy's 1972 chart-topping song. The words of the song summed up our resolve: We were strong! We were invincible! We were women! We were going to roar in numbers too big to ignore! No man was ever going to keep us down! We were perched on the verge of Womanhood. And we were confident that we would be the first generation to get the meaning of Womanhood right.

Our generation tried. We really did. We embraced education, careers, and prominence. We despised all relationships and responsibilities that would hold us back. We moved Marriage, Mothering and Homemaking from the top of our lists to the bottom—or crossed them off all together. After all, we were so much more enlightened than our fore-sisters were. The world had revolved around men, but it was our turn now. We would make it bow to our demands.

We decided that the role of a Housewife was totally passé. Charlie's Angels seemed so much more exciting. So we redefined boundaries. We changed the rules of male-female relationships. We became loud, demanding, and aggressive. We boldly pushed back against traditional definitions of gender and sexuality. We claimed our freedoms. We traded in the "Leave it to Beaver" model of Womanhood for the "Sex in the City" one. We bought into the feminist promise that Woman would find happiness and fulfillment when she defined her own identity and decided for herself what life as a Woman was all about. How very wrong we were. For ultimately, our identity is a matter decided not by us, but by the One Who in the beginning created us male and female.

It's obvious that the "Leave it to Beaver" model of womanhood—having a husband, a station-wagon full of kids, a house in the 'burbs, and every possible modern appliance—didn't bring woman the happiness she desired. As an old, archived 1972 *Time* magazine article lamented:

By all rights, the American woman today should be the happiest in history. She is healthier than U.S. women have ever been, better educated, more affluent, better dressed, more comfortable, wooed by advertisers, pampered by gadgets. But there is a worm in the apple. She is restless in her familiar familial role, no longer quite content with the homemaker-wife-mother part in which her society has cast her.¹

Last year (2010), *Time* magazine devoted an entire issue to “The State of the American Woman.”² But the writers were confounded by the evidence, tracked by numerous surveys, that as Women have gained more education, more economic independence, more power, and more freedom, they have become less and less happy. Ironically, they are *unhappier* now than when the Feminist movement set about to solve the problem of Woman’s unhappiness. The modern ideal for Womanhood is even *less* fulfilling than the one it replaced.

So should we try to rewind the tape and try to squeeze every Woman back into the “Leave it to Beaver” mold? No. We can’t hope to get Womanhood right until we understand the ultimate object to which it points. When God created male and female, He provided an object lesson—a parable, as it were—of His entire Redemptive Plan. Men are to reflect the strength, love and self-sacrifice of Christ. Women are to reflect the character, grace and beauty of the Bride He redeemed. Ultimately, Womanhood exists to help display the Masterpiece of God.

And the implications of this are staggering. This places Womanhood at the center of God’s ultimate Purpose. It endows it with supernatural Significance and Meaning. It provides Woman with a Framework to understand what her life is all about, what she should value, and how to make choices that align. Time, culture, and circumstances change, but the Bible provides an enduring Model for Womanhood that goes far beyond a stereotyped, cookie-cutter list of behaviors.

History proves that Woman’s happiness is not found in pursuing the current cultural ideal. But that doesn’t mean it’s an elusive goal. My “Woman’s History”—and the history of a multitude of sisters who have loved Christ—

¹ http://www.time.com/archive/collections/0,2428,c_women,00.shtml

² http://www.time.com/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1930277_1930145,00.html

testifies to the fact that happiness (of the deep, lasting kind) can be found in pursuing the One to Whom true Womanhood points.”

And so to understand the origins of Abortion and to comprehend the belief system that lies *behind* Abortion- that has deceived the Woman- all over again- we don't need to speak with Women. That isn't true. We need to consult with the Creator of Women- God- and what God has said, infallibly, in Scripture.

Now I want to think about three things that Moses taught in both the **Genesis 2 and 3** Accounts as he was moved along by God the Holy Spirit:

1. God created human beings
2. God created us in His Image
3. God created us Male and Female.

Now, first of all- we have to understand that it is possible to believe these three Truths and *not* be a Christian. After all they are all taught right here in the Jewish Scriptures. Therefore, a good Scripture-believing Jew would accept these Truths- and yet not trust in Jesus for Salvation. So even though you can believe these three Truths and not be a Christian- all three of them point to Christianity. They all beg for the *Completion* that comes with the finished Work of Christ. And that's what I want us to see- especially in regard to the third Truth—that we are created in God's Image as Male and Female.

1. God Created Human Beings

So let's take the first Truth: that human beings, and, therefore, Women have been created by God. And I think this begs for an explanation. WHY did God create us? When you make something- you have a reason for making it. But does the world, as we know it, give an adequate answer to that question? The Old Testament speaks of Man bringing the world under his dominion. It speaks of being created to show forth God's Glory (**Isaiah 43:7**). And it speaks of the earth being filled with the Knowledge of the Glory of the Lord.

But what do we see when we look around? We see a world in rebellion against its Creator. We see the Jewish Scriptures coming to an

end with the Story of Creation utterly unfinished and the “Hope of Glory” still to come. So just believing that God created human beings the way the Jewish Scriptures teach that He did- begs for the “rest of the story” to be told, namely, Christianity. Because only in Jesus Christ can the Purpose of Creation be achieved.

2. God Created Us in His Image

Or take the second Truth for example: God created us in His Image. Surely this must have something to do with *why* we are here. His Purpose in making us must have something wonderful to do with the fact that we are not frogs or lizards or birds or even monkeys. We are human beings in the Image of God. And we are alone in this respect- unlike any other animal- utterly unique.

But what a mess we have made of this awesome Dignity! Are we really like God? Well, yes and no. Yes, we are like God- even though we are sinful and unbelieving- there is still a “likeness”. And we know this because in **Genesis 9:6** God said to Noah,

Genesis 9:6

Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

In other words, even in a world where sin abounds with murder- human beings are still in the Image of God. But humans may not be killed like mice and mosquitoes. You will forfeit your *own* life if you murder another human being. And this is so true that you are not to even *speak* wrongly toward another human being. Look at **James 3:1-12** with me:

1 Let not many *of you* become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.

2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

3 Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they will obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

4 Look at the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

6 And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

8 But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison.

9 With it we bless *our* Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

10 from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

11 Does a fountain send out from the same opening *both* fresh and bitter water?

12 Can a fig tree, my brethren, produce olives, or a vine produce figs? Nor *can* salt water produce fresh.

But are we the Image God made us to be? Is not that Image marred sometimes almost beyond recognition? Do you feel that you are like God in the way you should be? So here again the belief that we were created in God's Image begs for a completion- in this case a Redemption, a Transformation, a kind of "Re-Creation".

And that is exactly what Christianity brings.

Ephesians 2:8-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 4:22-24

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

**23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,
24 and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.**

God created us in His Image- but we have marred it almost beyond recognition, and So Jesus is the Answer. He comes and by Grace through the gift of Faith- He forgives, cleanses, and He begins a "Reclamation Project" called Sanctification that will end in the Glory that God intended for human beings in the first place. Therefore, since we know that we were created in the Image of God, our sin and corruption begs for an Answer. And Jesus is that Answer.

3. God Created Us Male and Female

And the third Truth in these verses is that God created us Male and Female. And this, too, points to Christianity and begs for the Completion of Jesus Christ. How? In two ways at least.

- A. From the Mystery of Marriage
- B. From the historical ugliness of Male-Female relationships in sin.

A. The Mystery of Marriage

In **Genesis 2:24**, right after the Account of how Woman was created, Moses (the writer of **Genesis**) says:

For this reason [therefore] a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Now when the apostle Paul quotes this verse in **Ephesians 5:31**, he then went on to say:

Ephesians 5:32

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

And, with that as his clue- the Apostle then unfolds the Meaning of Marriage:

Marriage is a Symbol of Christ's Love for the Church represented in the Husband's loving Headship toward his Wife; and it's a Symbol of the Church's glad Submission to Christ represented in the Wife's loving submission to her Husband

And Paul calls **Genesis 2:24** a "mystery" because God did *not* clearly reveal all His Purposes for the Marriage of Male and Female until the Coming of Jesus. Now there were hints and pointers all throughout the Old Testament that Marriage was like the Relation between God and His people. But only when Christ came did the Mystery of Marriage get spelled out in detail. So Marriage is meant to be a Portrait of Christ's Covenant with His people- His Commitment to the Church.

Do you see, then, how God's creating Man as Male and Female and then ordaining Marriage as the Relationship in which a Male *leaves* his Mother and Father and cleaves to his Wife in Covenant Commitment- how this "Act of Creation" and this "Ordinance of Marriage" begs for the Revelation of Christ and His Church? They beg for Christianity as the Revelation of the Mystery.

And this is a very foreign thought to most people- sadly, even most Christians- because Marriage has become a secular institution as well as a Christian one. You can find Marriage in *all* cultures- not just in Christian societies. So we are not prone to think of all the non-Christian Marriages that we know as mysterious symbols of Christ's Relation to the Church.

But the Bible says that they are- and our very existence as Male and Female in Marriage cries out for Christ to make Himself known in His Relation to the Church. So that is why I say that Christianity *completes* our comprehension of the Marriage Covenant.

Now please let me paint a picture for you here and give it a twist that you may not have thought of before. Christ is coming again to this earth. Even as you saw Him go- He will come again, the angels said. So imagine that day with me. The Heavens are opened and the trumpet sounds and the Son of Man appears on the clouds with Power and Great Glory, and with tens of thousands of holy angels shining like the sun. And Jesus sends them out to gather His elect from the four winds and raises from the dead those who died in Christ. And He gives them new

and glorious bodies like His Own- and transforms the rest of us in the twinkling of an eye to be fit for Glory.

So the ages-long preparation of the Bride of Christ (the Church) is finally complete and Christ takes her arm, as it were, and leads her to the Marriage Feast. So the Marriage Supper of the Lamb has finally come! And Jesus stands at the head of the table and a great silence falls over the millions of saints. And Jesus says,

“This, My beloved, was the Meaning of Marriage. This is what it all pointed toward. This is why I created you Male and Female and why I ordained the Covenant of Marriage. Henceforth there will be no more Marriage and no more “giving in marriage”, for the final Reality has come and the shadow can now pass away!” (see **Mark 12:25; Luke 20:34–36**).

Now recall what we are doing: we are trying to see that the third Truth, God created us in His Image as Male and Female, points to Christianity as its Completion. And I said it does this in two ways. The first was by the “Mystery of Marriage”. So the creation of human beings as Male and Female provides the necessary framework in Creation for the Ordinance of Marriage. You could not have Marriage without Male and Female. And the ultimate Meaning of Marriage is *not* known in its essence or fullness until we see it as a Parable of Christ’s Relationship to the Church.

So creation as Male and Female points to Marriage, and Marriage points to Christ and the Church. And, therefore, the belief that God created us in His Image as Male and Female could not then be complete without Christianity- without Christ and His saving Work for the Church.

B. The Historical Ugliness of Male-Female Relationships

Now I said that there was *another* way that the creation of Male and Female in God’s Image points to Christianity as the necessary Completion, namely, from its distortion in the historical ugliness of Male-Female Relationships. Let me try to explain.

When sin entered the world- the effect on our Relationship as Male and Female was devastating. God comes to Adam (because he was

accountable) after he had eaten the forbidden fruit and asks what has happened. And Adam says in **Genesis 3:12**,

The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.

In other words- Adam is telling God, *"I didn't ask You for a wife. I was fine. You're the One Who said my aloneness as not "good". And so You took it upon yourself to create this Woman for me and now look what happened. It's not my fault- the fault lies with You and the woman."* In other words, Adam was saying, *"If somebody has to die for eating the fruit- kill her or kill Yourself- but don't kill me!"*

And *this* fallen attitude in the Man is the beginning of all domestic violence, all wife abuse, all rape, all sexual slurs, and all the ways of belittling women- whom God created in His Own Image. And *that* is the beginning of all Abortions. And that is why I tell you that Men *created* feminism, lesbianism, and unwanted pregnancies and abortion. Men *finance* these things and men defend them. Feminism and Lesbianism and Abortion would collapse under their own weight if men would simply repent and return to God and begin to walk holy before the Lord.

God gave Man an anointing and an authority with his voice and his actions and his life that women and children and animals and all of nature were put under his authority- as long as he was under God's Authority. And sin ruined all that. **Genesis 3:16** pronounces a Curse on fallen Man and Woman like this:

To the woman God says,

"I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

In other words, the result of Sin and the Curse of our age is *conflict* between the sexes. So this verse is *not* a description of the way things *should* be. This is a description of the Cursed way things are *going* to be- as long as sin reigns. Instead of strong, godly, and loving men- who humble themselves to God's Rule- Sin has made men fierce,

violent, and cold- and working as hard as we can to rebel against every Rule of God.

Instead of soft, sweet, loving women- who enjoy complementing the Call of God on their husbands- Sin has made women hard, devious, and gullible- ever falling for the next slogan or the next lie that promises freedom and happiness. But that is *not* the meaning of Male and Female in God's Image- it is the blatant ugliness of sin.

But you can't have it both ways. If the Man was created first with leadership authority- if the Man was created as "Head" then the ruination of the Human Race falls on the Man and not the Woman.

I would remind you what God said to Adam. God did *not* curse Adam for eating the fruit. Here is what God said:

Genesis 3:17

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

So the Curse came forth from the eating- but the eating came forth because Adam did not lead his wife but switched roles with her and allowed her to lead him. So his eating was merely a result of his cowardly *acquiescence* to his wife.

God called Adam to lead his wife, to teach her, to love her, to protect her, and to provide for her. But Adam forgot that Eve was a gift to Adam from a Good God- Who loved Adam. So Eve was a gift- *not* a burden- a blessing- *not* a problem. And Adam was *not* fine without Eve- God said it was "**not good**". He was *incomplete*. So Eve was God's Answer to Adam's *lack* of completeness. And her well-being was his charge. So *his* Joy was wrapped up in leading her under God's Rule, and her Joy was wrapped up in being led by her husband. And that is *why* her deception was *his* fault, her fall was *his* failure, her duplicity was *his* weakness.

And while you may disagree with me about this- the Apostle Paul agrees with the logic that says the Man's sin brought forth the Woman's sin, and the fall of Humanity because he said in **1Corinthians 15:22**

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

Let me say this another way- only by the Man rising up to be what God called him to be- would Eve *not* fall into deception. Eve's entire well-being was inescapably tied in with Adam. If Adam failed- she could not stand. If Adam reneged on his responsibility- she would fall. And he did and so she did.

And this is so true that one of the inspired Qualifications for a man to lead in the House of God is that he “**manage**” his own family “**well**” in this strong, godly, loving, and sacrificial way. And if he *cannot* command respect from his wife and children- the people who know him the best- he *cannot* lead in the Church. **1 Timothy 3:4-5** says:

4 *He* [the man who is being considered as an Elder] *must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity*

5 *(but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),*

So it is the failure of Men to be what God called them to be as to why we have runaway sin, and the unwanted pregnancies and abortions that abound in our day. And we can pass all the laws we want to- but until we fix the problem of ungodly, weak, and emasculated men- women will *continue* to be ungodly and deceived.

But then we have to understand that Woman was created to be the *compliment* that the Man lacked. And so if we hope to have strong, godly, and loving men- we must have strong, godly, and loving Women who will help mold the Man into what God has called him to be.

So the result of ungodly Women is ungodly Men. And the result of ungodly Men is deceived Women. And the result of deceived Women is that babies will *continue* to be murdered.

So look again at **Genesis 3:16**. Adam and Eve have both sinned against God. They have distrusted His infinite Goodness and turned away from Him to depend on their *own* wisdom for how to be happy. So it isn't that they didn't know God's Word- it's worse than that. They knew God's Word and Will, and consciously *rejected* His Word and Will, and they ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

And God calls them to account and now describes to them what the Curse will be on human life because of sin. And in **Genesis 3:16** God says to the woman,

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

Now this is a description of the Curse. It is a description of misery- not a model for Marriage. This is the way it's going to be in history where sin has the upper hand. But what is really being said here? What is the nature of this ruined relationship after sin?

The key comes from recognizing the connection between the last words of *this* verse (3:16b) and the last words of **Genesis 4:7**.

If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

Here God is warning Cain about his resentment and anger against Abel. And God tells him that sin is about to get the upper hand in his life. Notice at the end of the verse 7: **"Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it** [literally: you shall rule over it]."

The parallel here between 3:16 and 4:7 is amazingly close. The words are virtually the same in Hebrew, but you can see this in the English as well. In 3:16 God says to the woman, **"Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."** And in 4:7 God says to Cain, **"Sin's desire is for you, and you must rule over it."**

Now the reason this is important to see is that it shows us more clearly what is meant by the word **"desire."** When 4:7 says that sin is crouching at the door of Cain's heart (like a lion, **Genesis 49:9**) and that its desire is for him- it means that sin wants to overpower him. It wants to defeat him and subdue him and make him the slave of sin.

Now when we go back to 3:16, we should probably see the same meaning in the sinful desire of the woman. So when it says, **"Your desire will be for your husband,"** it means that when sin has the upper hand in the Woman- she will desire to overpower or subdue or exploit the Man. And when sin has the upper hand in the Man- he will respond in like manner and with his strength- subdue her, or rule over her.

So what is really described in the Curse of 3:16 is the ugly conflict between the Male and Female that has marked so much of human history. Maleness as God created it has been depraved and corrupted by sin. Femaleness as God created it has been depraved and corrupted by sin. And the very essence of sin is "self-reliance" and "self-exaltation". First in rebellion against God, and then in exploitation of each other.

So the essence of corrupted Maleness is the self-aggrandizing effort to subdue and control and exploit Women for his own private desires. And the essence of corrupted Femaleness is the self-aggrandizing effort to subdue and control and exploit Men for her own private desires. And the difference is found mainly in the different weaknesses that we can exploit in one another. But one of the results of this profound dysfunction between men and women is 55 million dead babies.

The modern secular world—the world which tries to remove God from his all-creating, all-sustaining, all-defining, all-governing place—has no choice but to make *itself* "god" and to create its *own* "morality". In other words, when Man abandons God and his self-revelation becomes the source of what is objectively true and right and beautiful—the next highest court of appeal is Man himself.

If God is not the Measure of what is true and right and beautiful, then I am and you are. And since we—the god called "you," and the god called "me"—may not agree, the result will always be: "Might makes right". And so everything in education, and media, and politics in this God-evicting world becomes a battle for power. It isn't a noble quest for objective Truth and Right and Beauty—since we have decided that there isn't any. It simply descends into nothing more than a power-struggle. Because in a world without God— the one who has the power— defines Reality. Defines what is True. Defines what is Right. Defines what is Beautiful. And in this world— there is no court of appeal for the weak. Because Man is now "god". And the powerful man is "god-Almighty"— the "maker of the truth", the "inventor of what is right", and the "definer of what is beautiful". And the bloodiest century in the history of the world—the twentieth century— with its Stalin and Hitler and Mussolini and Milosevic and Pot and Amin and Mao and Sung and Hussein and the abortion industry—prove that to be true— with horrifying evidence.

The implications of God-dethroning secularism for abortion and genocide are huge, and we will come back to them in a moment. But first let's see how old this "modern" secular world is.

In **Genesis 2:16&17** it says:

16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

So what was the meaning of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil"? It represented "*independence* from God". There is nothing wrong with "the knowledge of good and evil" in itself- **Genesis 3:22** says God Himself has it:

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

... so this was real bad. Man was not to have it the way God had it. And now he has taken it.

In the Creation Story, to have "the knowledge of good and evil" means to claim the independent right to decide for *oneself* what is "good and evil" ("true and false", "ugly and beautiful"). And it was *proper* for God to have that- but not Man. God knew that it would be utterly *devastating* for Man to cut the cord of dependence from God and claim "the knowledge of good and evil" for himself." And that is why God said,

"Don't eat it. It will kill you."

Indeed it has- in more ways than we know. And it is *still* killing us- spiritually and physically. All death is rooted in this Insurrection. And you see the Insurrection beginning in the satanic Temptation and Fall in **Genesis 3**.

So when you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you are saying, "*I henceforth decide for myself what is true and right and beautiful.*" And that is what God does. God alone is the Source of

objective Truth and Right and Beauty. But Satan says otherwise. *"Eat it and you will be like God"*.

But God is a flower of Truth and Right and Beauty. But unlike us- God has no roots and needs no water, no sunshine, and no soil. God is absolutely "self-sufficient" in every sense of that word. But we are not. We are planted *in* God. And we get *all* our water and *all* our light and *all* our nutrition from Him- or we die. So we can cut our stem and *pretend* to be like God. We can *imagine* ourselves to be our *own* source of Life and Light and Truth and Right and Beauty. We can try- and we can die.

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.

The first result of choosing to be god is the canyon between appearance and pretension. Now that I have chosen to be my own "god"- my own non-godlike appearance is ridiculous. And humans have spent centuries with fine clothing (cool clothing) and make up and body-building trying to look less like the wreckage we really are without God. The root of shame is the pretension to be god- the need to look invulnerable, self-sufficient, god-like (or goddess-like).

So the very *essence* of the Fall of Eve and Adam- and all of us *in* Adam- is the supreme pleasure we have in being *independent*, and deciding for *ourselves* what is True and Right and Beautiful, rather than finding supreme pleasure in God- as the Fountain of all that is True and Right and Beautiful. So the essence of the Fall is preferring to *be* god- rather than *enjoying* God.

So the modern secular world is very old. It puts on new clothes from century to century, and we call it by different names. Recently there are terms like: "Modernism", "Existentialism", "Secular Humanism", "Postmodernism". But there is a common root they all share: God is dethroned, and the next highest court of appeal for Truth and Right and Beauty is Man- frail, finite, fallible, mortal Man.

And the implication of this for Abortion is staggering. But, before I make the link, let's be sure we feel the weight of what is happening. A conservative estimate of unborn babies killed in the world each year is 30 million—about a third of those in Russia . Romania is reported to

have the highest abortion rate in the world (3 out of 4 pregnancies). In America, since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 made it legal to take the lives of an unborn baby for any reason, there have been about 55 million abortions. One baby aborted every 26 seconds, 151 every hour, 3,629 every day.

In Mississippi, from 1973 to 2015, over 80,000 abortions were reported. There were 2,012 in 2002. 50% on women under age 24. 79% were unmarried. 40% has had an abortion before. 60% reported that the reason for their abortion was either economic or “does not want child at this time”. 76% of the babies that were aborted in Mississippi in 2015 were black; 67% were females.

Here's the link between abortion and the modern pagan religion that began in the Garden of Eden. It's the word “want.” “I do not want the child at this time.”

I used to think that if we could persuade abortionists that the fetus was a human child, and that they were killing children, they would stop. If we could just show them, like Scott Klusendorf does (<http://www.str.org>), that there is no morally significant difference between a one-month-old baby and a preborn baby (S.L.E.D. Not size, not level of development, not environment, not dependence), they would stop doing abortions. But I talked to two abortionists that said they *knew* they were killing children and that they would never stop because to them, “It was the lesser of two evils”. And the “worse” evil that in the mind of the doctor was infinitely worse than killing a baby was “denying the ‘want’ of the mother” (call it “freedom”, call it “reproductive rights”).³

So with these words- “*I do not want a child at this time*”—we are near the heart of the issue. At this time in American history, that is one of the most powerful sentences a person can speak: “*I do not want a child at this time.*” It's powerful, because in a world without God, and without submission to His Will- the will or even the “want”—of a mother has become the “will of a god”. And I say this carefully and

³ This perspective has recently been repeated by British senior advisor on medical ethics and a candidate for President of the United States. According to [Sunday Telegraph](#), Professor John Harris, a member of the British Medical Association's ethics committee, said: “I don't think infanticide is always unjustifiable. I don't think it is plausible to think that there is any moral change that occurs during the journey down the birth canal. . . . People who think there is a difference between infanticide and late abortion have to ask the question: what has happened to the fetus in the time it takes to pass down the birth canal and into the world which changes its moral status? I don't think anything has happened in that time.” And Wesley Clark (<http://www.crosswalk.com/news/weblogs/mohler/1240588.html?view=print>), running for President of the United States, recently told the Manchester Union Leader that “Life begins with the mother's decision.”

calmly and sadly: Our modern, secular, God-dethroning culture has endowed the will (the "want") of a mother not just with "sovereignty" over her child- but with something vastly greater. We have endowed her will with the right and the power to actually *create* "human personhood".

Let me explain how this happens. When God is no longer the Creator of human personhood, endowing it with Dignity and Rights in His Own Image, we must take that role from Him, and vest it in the will of the mother. And therefore- *she* creates personhood.

In this sense: Mississippi, along with 33 other states⁴, has a fetal homicide law. A crime against a mother that injures or kills her unborn baby will be treated as a crime with *two* victims- not just one. And we have seen several remarkable cases in Mississippi. In one case a man was convicted of assisting the suicide of his girlfriend and "inadvertently murdered the fetus during the commission of a felony." The fetal homicide law carries a stiffer penalty than aiding a suicide, and could have required 12 years of prison for the fetal homicide. What was astonishing in this case is this sentence from the Clarion Ledger in Jackson:

"The law makes it murder to kill an embryo or fetus intentionally, except in cases of abortion."

But that is an accurate sentence that should make us tremble. Why? Because it shows that in a world without God- the will of the strong creates (or nullifies) the personhood of the weak. How can there be a fetal homicide law that is not broken by abortion? Why is abortion *not* fetal homicide? There is only one essential answer. In the case of the fetal homicide- the mother *wants* the baby. And in the case of abortion- she *does not*. So the will of the mother is "god".

And the awesome thing is that we endow her will not just with *sovereignty* over her unborn baby- but with the authority to actually *define* it: If she wants it- it is a baby, a person. If she does *not* want it- it is *not* a baby, not a person.

In other words, in our laws- we have now made room for some premeditated murder to be justified- *not* on the basis of the rights or crimes of the one killed- but decisively on the basis of the will and the

⁴ (<http://womensissues.about.com/cs/parentingfamily/a/aafetalhomicide.htm>)

desire- even the whim- of a stronger person. So the decisive criterion of personhood and non-personhood, what is right and wrong, what is legal and what is illegal, is *not* what is morally pure- but merely the will of the strong.

And that means that “might makes right”. And might makes personhood. And might makes legal. And that is the ultimate statement of anarchy. It is the essence of the original insurrection against God, and against objective Truth and all that is Right and Beautiful.

No culture can survive this kind of “Truth- denying thinking” indefinitely. And part of the remedy is for us to spread the Truth: *Might does not make right. Desire does not define duty. Wanting does not create worth.* All of us know intuitively that if someone desires our destruction- that their desire does *not* justify our murder. We know this. It is not debatable. And so we should say this- over and over again.

But the remedy that goes most deeply to the heart of the issue is found back in **Genesis 3**. When the man blamed God and the woman, and the woman blamed the serpent—the devil—God said these words to the serpent:

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

This is the first great Prophecy in the Bible of God's Triumph over sin and Satan through the offspring of the woman, Jesus Christ. And this is why Paul said in **Galatians 4:4**,

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

Jesus was “born of a woman” because God had promised: The offspring of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. That is what Jesus did when He came.

Now listen very carefully now, especially you women and men who have had or who have supported abortion. God knew that Eve had sinned and turned her back on Him. But when He spoke the Promise, God did not say: *The day will come when the seed of the serpent will*

crush woman for her sin. Almost immediately after Eve's God-dethroning sin- God makes her a "means of Salvation" and *not* the "object of judgment". The Offspring of this woman will crush Satan. Jesus Christ died and rose again to forgive and reverse our love affair with being god instead of enjoying God.

I think God wants every woman, and every man, to take heart this morning that His offer to you is Salvation- *not* Judgment. The Offspring of the woman, Jesus Christ, came into the world to save women who have dethroned God, taken His place, defined personhood as tissue, and willed the death of their own child. It can't be reversed, but it can be forgiven. And that is why Christ died.

Every person listening to me now needs this Salvation—men and women and children. Some only feel it more than others. And those who feel it most are most fortunate. Turn to Christ for forgiveness and embrace him as your Lord and the Treasure of your life.

If you think that your sin is too great, listen to the Apostle Paul as he pleads with you not to lose heart:

1 Timothy 1:15-16

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

God saved Paul, the murderer (**The Acts 9:1; 7:58**), so that you would take heart and believe.

Amen. Let's pray

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.

