

## **ECF Position Statement on Abortion**

### **Introduction:**

In a society where the subject of abortion is no longer a bad word, the assumption is that it is acceptable and permissible. Now, more often than not, people also assume that the Church's posture and position is one of acceptability and permissibility. Therefore, for the sake of clarity and understanding for those who would be members of Ecclesia Christian Fellowship, offers this statement to clarify its position on this subject and promote understanding of what the Bible teaches regarding abortion.

### **What is Abortion?**

The plain and simple definition as defined by Nave's Topical Bible:

**Abortion** is the intended act of ending a pregnancy, thus ending the life of the fetus (i.e., the unborn child).

### **What is the Abortion Debate?**

The **abortion debate** refers to discussion and controversy surrounding the moral and legal status of abortion. The two main groups involved in the abortion debate are the pro-choice movement, which generally supports access to abortion and regards it as morally permissible, and the pro-life movement, which generally opposes access to abortion and regards it as morally wrong. Each movement has, with varying results, sought to influence public opinion and to attain legal support for its position. In Canada, for example, abortion is available on demand, while in Nicaragua abortions are always illegal. In the USA, abortion is generally legal but subject to restrictions in some jurisdictions and circumstances. In some cases, the abortion debate has led to the use of violence.

But the debate deals with the issue of whether the unborn fetus is a human being or not. Yet, for those of us who believe in God's word that issue is already settled according to the Bible. No, God's word does not say, "Thou shalt not abort thy babies!" But He does infer and imply that unborn babies are recognized by Him as human beings with purpose.

### **What is the Biblical Posture?**

Biblically, some see abortion as discussed in the laws of miscarriage and premature childbirth in:

#### **Ex. 21:22-25**

"If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges *decide*.

"But if there is *any further* injury, then you shall appoint as a *penalty* life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."

But we see it as life during and even before conception, as implied in the following passages:

#### **Jeremiah 1:5**

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

#### **Psalms 139:13-16**

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were written all the days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

### **What is Ecclesia's Position?**

For some of you the answer to this question is quite obvious. But for the purpose of clarity, our position stands with the Bible's posture. We believe God's word to be true and relevant to the issue of life and is the guide to the conduct and practices of life. We oppose abortion in its present practice and concur with the Word of God that life in the womb is life as God has created life.