

NBTS
MATS
Ad-228

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES OF ABORTION
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY LIFE IN
LAGOS CENTRAL BAPTIST CONFERENCE

AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
OGBOMOSO

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF THE
MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

SUBULOYE, ELKANAH ADEBAYO.
MATRIC NO: 08/0020.

2013—0435

JUNE, 2011

B.C. POOL LIBRARY
BAPTIST SEMINARY
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA

ABSTRACT

The research investigates the Christian response to the challenge of abortion and its implication for family life in Lagos Central Baptist Conference. The purpose of this study is to assess the prevailing purpose, view, debate and challenges on abortion. The biblical perspective, medical perspective and ethical issue on abortion was explored. The research also assesses the theological implication of abortion and gives some practical suggestion on how Christians ought to respond to the challenges of abortion. Though the word abortion is not directly mentioned in the Bible some passages provide principles that can be applied. The research closely examines various authors' opinions on the subject matter and their various contributions.

The instrument used by the researcher is a self design questionnaire. The total number of 189 Baptists members of Lagos Central Baptist Conference was used as sample. According to the research it is affirmed that abortion is prevalent in our society. The biblical perspective of abortion was examined in the study. The effects of abortion on family life were discovered in this research such as guilt, barrenness, divorce, and health problems. It was also discovered that abortion cause marital problem and shame among others. It was discovered that the Church need to give sound biblical teaching on abortion to members, and preach the gospel.

On the basis of findings in this research, recommendations were raised on how families, the Church and individual can help themselves to overcome the challenges of abortions. The church should encourage its membership to think and act christianly about abortion issue. This includes consistent teaching in a number of general

concerns. The research also recommends that the pastors need to show love and concern for those involved in abortion and that the gospel need to be preached to all. Moreover, the research also recommends that the Church should try to improve in her service as the light of the world and speak against abortion in all ramifications as it was done in the past.

5.2 Conclusion

On the basis of the findings reached in this study, it could be concluded that abortion is common in most countries of the world and also in our society especially among Christians. The research shows that God is the giver of life and no one has the right to take human life at any stage of development especially that of the unborn. Logically and scripturally, one is guided to conclude that life begins at conception and that the unborn is a person with all potential of normal human development.

The findings show that people abort for various reasons which include attempt to cover shame, and as a family planning method. Also some abort when planning for

Church wedding, in response to Church policies on marriage. Biblically and theologically abortion is unethical. It was discovered that abortion has negative effects on woman and it may lead to barrenness and divorce, it also has serious challenges on Christian family life.

The ethical standard of the Church in relation to abortion needs to be seriously looked into. There is of lack of enlightenment programmes which Church members should have been exposed to. The Church needs to rise to her responsibilities of speaking against abortion in all its ramifications. There is need to organize programmes such as symposium, lectures and special health programmes on the danger and effect of induced abortion. The recommendation for Christian's family is to know that God is the giver of life and no child is an accident. Moreover, the research suggests that the Church needs to rise and educate the society on the negative effect of abortion. Failure to educate members shows that the Church may have relented in her effort, but it is better for her to learn from her mistakes and look for ways to correct them. The first step is to adopt the principle of repentance and restoration. It is expedient that the Church restores her dignity and former relationship with God and really be the light and salt of the world.

Knowing that the members of the Church are members of different families that live in the community, cities, and state of our of nation, the Church should begin afresh to educate their members on dangers of this vice. For instance education should be given in the Church and families. The gospel also has to be preached to all. For the Christian, human life is a sacred continuous process from conception, through pregnancy, birth, growth to adulthood and on to natural (or accidental) death. To deliberately destroy an innocent human being at any point after conception is, in

God's eyes, a wrongful killing. The biblical exception covering justified killings are strictly limited. Therefore terminating a pregnancy by dismembering, poisoning or prematurely inducing the delivery of a fetus, are all prohibited by the teaching of the Bible. They are all acts which intentionally destroy innocent human life, and such acts are forbidden by the sixth commandment. Christians therefore must oppose abortion.

5.3 Recommendations

According to the findings in this research work, the researcher recommends the following for pastors, for those that have had abortions, the Church, Christian doctors and health professionals.

5:3:1, Recommendations to Pastors

It must be recognized, that abortion hurts women as well as their unborn children. Abortion may seem to be the kindest thing to do but all it does is to take away one pain and replace it with others. The Pastor therefore needs to;

1. Support and encourage caring Christian initiatives that provide practical alternatives to abortion by encouraging the Church to have centers that will offer a range of facilities including free pregnancy testing, counseling, befriending, adoption schemes, accommodation, telephone helpline, nursery/play school facilities etc.
2. Show love at the point of crisis. A caring commitment should be given to women including those distressed after an abortion or miscarriage.
3. A training manual, video tapes or CDs plus other literature to help prevent abortion and those who face the challenges of abortion.

