

January 22, 2014

## Love vs. Roe v. Wade

Romans 12:9 (NASB), ***“Let love be without hypocrisy. Adhor what is evil; cling to what is good.”***

Today is the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion on demand in all 50 states. Since that day it is estimated that there have been over 55 million abortions in the United States. For the past 40 years the issue of abortion has been one of *the* most divisive and dominant issues in American politics. The issue of abortion though is not really a politically issue, it is a moral issue and on a deeper level it involves the concept of love.

Today we come to Romans 12:9 verse 9 which begins a discussion of the Christian virtue of love and what love really is. What is love anyway? Our culture has so confused the issue of true love that very few of us have any real understanding of what it is. We have confused love with feelings because most everything in our culture today centers around our feelings. Love however is not a “feeling” rather love is an action or actions.

The word ***“love”*** as it is used here in verse 9 is translated to mean “affection” and it refers to the “highest Christian virtue.” According to John MacArthur in his commentary on Romans, “Love is the supreme New Testament virtue, which centers on the needs and welfare of the one loved and does whatever is necessary to meet those needs.” Matthew 22:37-39 undergirds this: ***“YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”*** This is the great and foremost commandment. ***The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’*** Galatians 5:22 lists ***“love”*** as one of the fruits of the Spirit: ***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love...”*** 1 Peter 4:8 charges us with; ***“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”***

***Love***” then is what being a Christ follower is all about. Love is at its very root inherently unselfish. Love always puts the needs of “the one loved” ahead of the needs of self. This is the problem with abortion. Abortion is inherently (almost always) a selfish act. How can I say this? Because the debate really is no longer about whether or not this is a life; that debate’s death knell came with the advent of ultrasound and the rapid advances in medical technology. You don’t very often hear that argument anymore and the reason is that even those who support abortion understand that they no longer have an intellectual leg to stand on. Since this then is a life and not just a fetus then we must understand from a Christian perspective that true love does not take a life in that situation no matter how inconvenient said life might be to one’s future plans or current circumstances.

Paul continues in this verse and writes that love is to ***“be without hypocrisy...”*** 2 Corinthians 6:6 says that our love is to be ***“in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love.”*** Christian love is to be pure and sincere and without self-serving guile. Some who support abortion have argued and continue to argue that they are only concerned about the safety, rights, and health of the mother. The reality though is very different; the reality is that abortion doesn’t free the mother but often times is detrimental to their mental and spiritual health.

Paul continues in verse 9 with the explanation of Biblical love and writes that if we love the Lord and have true love then we will ***“abhor what is evil...”*** The word ***“evil”*** is translated to mean ***“bad, vicious, degenerate.”*** As Christ followers we are to ***“abhor”*** or “hate” what is evil and there can be little doubt that the taking of a life (which is what abortion is) is indeed ***“evil.”***

When the original decision was handed down by the Supreme Court one of the considerations that several of the justices used was that of population control. Those who had advocated for abortion on demand; such as Margaret Sanger had made clear that one of the purposes of abortion was to reduce the number of “undesirable” children. Even current Supreme Court Justice and abortion supporter Ruth Bader Ginsburg has said, “Frankly I had thought at the time *Roe* was decided, there was concern about population growth and particularly growth in populations that we don’t want to have too many of. So that *Roe* was going to be then set up for Medicaid funding for abortion.”

As Christ followers we are to ***“abhor what is evil”*** and we are then to ***“cling to what is good.”*** Several years ago I was in a meeting of area pastors where I was serving at the time and one of the pastors expressed support for abortion. I sat and listened for a moment until I could no longer control my tongue and I said to him that no matter what rationale we may use abortion is the taking of a life. Since it is the taking of a life it is by its very nature evil and as Christ followers we are to join closely with what is good and we are to hate what is evil.

As we once again pass yet another year in which the taking of innocent human life is condoned and in fact sanctioned by our government we as Christ followers are to stand up and “cling to what is good.” We do this not from a political agenda because believe me neither party has done much to stop the scourge of abortion. We do this out of the highest Christian virtue which is love.

What does this mean? I believe that first of all we are to lovingly share the gospel with those that are lost. I do not believe the abortion issue is a political issue, it is at its root a spiritual one and as such there can only be a supernatural spiritual solution. That solution is a revival within the United States. Only when we as individuals repent of our sins and place our trust in Jesus Christ will this evil begin to fade into history. Our sin is at the root of all the great issues we face today.

Abortion is no different from any other sin and as with all sin it leaves devastating consequences in its wake. The good news is that Christ died on the cross for all of our sins. If you are reading this and you have never repented of your sins and believed in Him I want to encourage you to do that today. Only Jesus Christ can set us free from the bondage of our sins. Jesus said in John 3:16, ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”***