

BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND CHRISTIANITY Part 5 Notes

Biomedical Issues: *"Just because you can, doesn't mean you should!"*

In all these issues, there are two main worldviews at work:

Judeo-C_____ vs. Secular H_____

- There is a creator **vs.** there is no Creator
- Humankind was specially created **vs.** humankind evolved from animals
- God is sovereign over life **vs.** Humankind is sovereign over life.
- Sanctity of life is key principle **vs.** Quality of life is a key principle
- The end does not justify the means **vs.** the end justifies the means.

On all of these various new advances in technology, we may have a hard time finding a chapter and verse to "proof-text" a morally debated issue.... But The Bible talks i_____ about ALL issues in life! We just need to dedicate ourselves to the study of it! We need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our convictions AS we study the scriptures.

Basic Guidelines:

- Is it v_____ or compulsory?
- Is it mercy killing or mercifully a_____ death?
- Is it preserving life or p_____ death?
- Is it artificial or n_____ means?
- Is it correcting or c_____ life?

Organ Transplants - John 15:13 - This preserves life. It is morally p_____.

Genetic Surgery - Depends on the context, but in most cases, if it is for r_____ the "brokenness" of humanity, then I would also see this as morally permissible. (Luke 10:33-34 James 4:17)

Pharmaceuticals: What about medications and vaccines?

This is a very GREY area, but there are some helpful verses to highlight.

1 Timothy 5:13 - Shows us that treating yourself medicinally is good in many cases to help relieve health problems, and we don't have to sit around to wait to be healed if there are medical steps we can take to treat our bodies.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - we are a temple of the Holy Spirit, and we should treat our bodies as such, with dignity and care!

Here's the catch - both sides of this issue could use these verses to argue their position!

(Titus 2:11-12) Drugs can become a _____ and create unhealthy habits and dependencies.

It is good to avoid using Pharmaceuticals and when possible to use n_____. methods of treating our bodies, but it is morally permissible when no natural remedy is available to you.

Transgender Surgery / Body Enhancements:

Transgender surgery is very morally objectionable. God created us male and female which Jesus also affirms (Gen 1:26, Matt 19:4) Deuteronomy 22:5 tells us that it is not good to “blur the lines” between gender norms. Romans 12:1-2, tells us to be self sacrificial and not conform to the patterns of this world. And our body is a temple (1 Cor 6:19-20, Lev 19:28, Phil 3:2)

Elective body enhancements - I would consider this morally questionable at best - what is your reason? (Proverbs 31:30, 1 Peter 3:3-4) If we alter our bodies to change our image, what does that tell us about our priorities?

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward” -Psalm 127:3

HUGE PROBLEM with IVF - the practice is often a _____ in that it selects and discards embryos depending on what the doctor considers viable - this practice can only be considered morally permissible at all if there is no selection and ALL embryos are implanted in a womb.

Artificial Insemination (AI) / Surrogacy

AI through the father is morally permissible in e_____ case, seeing that doctors are helping along the marital process to be “fruitful and multiply” (Gen 1:28, 9:7)

AI through a donor is questionable at best. This is definitely case-by-case. Why are you using a donor? What if there is a b_____ alternative altogether? (Adoption)

Surrogacy has a similar moral p_____. Surrogacy through convenience is morally wrong and vain. Other reasons pose multiple problems, such as the use of IVF or Artificial insemination of the father. Consider Abraham, Sarah and Hagar - that is an example of surrogacy, and it posed a lot of issues.

A_____ is the better way! “Defend the weak and the fatherless!” (Psalm 82:3)

Birth Control:

There are no explicit commands against birth control, there are plenty that are d_____. The sin of Onan (Gen 38, Gen 1:28, Psalm 127:3-5, Psalm 139:13-16)

MANY birth control methods are a _____ so those are DEFINITELY morally wrong. Various birth control procedures also inflict bodily mutilation which is a rejection of God's design and an affront to God's t _____ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) For that same reason, I believe that in most cases, sterilization is morally wrong.

Luke's conviction is that birth control in general as a practice is not morally permissible.

BIG PICTURE helpful verses:

The Old and New Testament is FILLED with verses describing God's direct hand in opening and closing the w _____ (Genesis 29:31, 30:22, 1 Samuel 1:5-6, Isaiah 66:9)

It is Luke's conviction to trust in the Sovereignty of God's plan for our marriages, our families and our womb.

We can trust in God's p _____ for our families (Matthew 6:31-33, Luke 12:24, Phil 4:19) We need to be preoccupied with his kingdom purposes!

For those who are barren, you can step into a journey that is HIGHLY FAVORED stepping into the gap for the fatherless through a _____, foster care or other programs. (James 1:27, Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:3-4)

Stem Cell Research / Cryogenics

Stem Cell Research can be distinguished between non-embryonic and embryonic stem cells. Using embryonic stem cells is a _____ morally wrong.

Cryogenics: There is no example of a s _____ revival of a frozen human. God determines our life span (Romans 5:12; Heb 9:27, Psalm 10) Christians have no reason to pursue this, since they are g _____ eternal life by Christ!

Cloning / Gene Splicing:

Cloning - this is playing God not serving God! This subverts God's natural path to be fruitful and multiply. In regards to the clones themselves, It is worth noting that identical twins are n _____ occurring clones, so there is no reason to say that a clone is LESS-THAN human. If God places a soul in a body, it is human!

Gene-Splicing - this is morally questionable at best and it is very utilitarian. This has been used to bioengineer horrible diseases and viruses. Genesis 6 warns us against mixing things together that are not meant to be mixed (Humans / Angels) So why would we do this with any other o _____?

Capital Punishment: Three main views

- Rehabilitationism
- Reconstructionism
- Retributionism

A_____ views have been taken by Bible-believing, Spirit-filled individuals

Rehabilitationism: no capital punishment for A_____ crimes.

Biblical Arguments:

- The Purpose is to r_____, not punish (Ezekiel 18:23)
- Capital punishment was abolished with Christ's f_____ of the law (Matthew 5:38)
- Jesus didn't go through with capital punishment for the woman caught in a_____ (John 8:11)
- Cain was not given capital punishment (Gen 4:15)
- David was not given the death sentence (Psalm 32, 2 Samuel 18-19)

Moral Arguments:

- Capital punishment is unjustly a_____
- It is not a d_____ of crime
- It is a_____
- Criminals should be c_____, not killed
- Capital punishment sends unbelievers to h_____.

Luke's Rebuttals:

- The primary purpose biblically is not rehabilitation, but p_____. (Ex 20:5, Ezek 18:4, 20, Genesis 9:6, Exodus 21:12, Romans 6:23)
- Capital punishment was instituted p_____ to Moses' law (Gen 9:6)
- Jesus did not r_____ capital punishment because they needed at least 2 witnesses to accuse the woman caught in adultery. (Num 25:30)
- Cain is a special case, because it was b_____. Capital punishment was established as a law, and he expected to die (Gen 4:14)
- David was not accused because two witnesses did not stand forward, and he also WAS the government. God stepped in and punished David with a worse f_____ than his own death. The death of his child.
- Love and capital punishment are not contrary. IF this were the case than the gospel of Christ is a c_____ (John 3:16, 15:13, Lev 17:11)
- Capital punishment is the b_____ for the need for Christ's sacrifice.
- The c_____ did not abolish capital punishment (Romans 13:4, Acts 25:11)
- Unequal justice does not negate the n_____ for justice.
- Even if it did not deter crime (which is a wild idea that it doesn't) It is not pursued because it deters crime, it is because we are t_____ to do it.

- Capital punishment a_____ human dignity
- Criminals should be treated as p_____, not patients
- Capital punishment does not send people to hell, God punishes people to hell for their unrepentant heart. In some cases, capital punishment has been used to send people to h_____!

Reconstructionism: Capital punishment for a_____ major crimes

Classical reconstructionists seek to reintroduce the Old Testament M_____ Law as the basis for capital punishment.

Capital offenses:

1. Murder (Exod. 21:12)
2. Contemptuous act against a judge (Deut. 17:12)
3. Causing a fatal miscarriage (Exod. 21:22-25)
4. False testimony in a potentially capital crime (Deut. 19:16-19)
5. Negligence by the owner of an ox that kills people (Exod. 21:29)
6. Idolatry (Exod. 22:20).....
7. Blasphemy (Lev. 24:15-16)
8. Witchcraft or sorcery (Exod. 22:18)
9. False prophecy (Deut. 18:20)
10. Apostasy (Lev. 20:2)
11. Breaking the Sabbath (Exod. 31:14)
12. Homosexual relations (Lev. 18:22, 29)
13. Bestiality (Lev. 20:15-16)
14. Adultery (Lev. 20:10)
15. Rape (Deut. 22:25)
16. Incest (Lev. 20:11)
17. Cursing parents (Exod. 21:17; Lev. 20:9)
18. Rebellion by children (Deut. 21:18-21; Exod. 21:15)
19. Kidnapping (Exod. 21:16)
20. Drunkenness by a priest (Lev. 10:8-9)
21. Unanointed individuals touching the holy furnishings in the temple (Num. 4:15)
22. Striking parents (Exod. 21:15)
23. Having sex during woman's menstrual period (Lev. 18:19, 28)

Arguments for Reconstructionism:

- God's law reflects his unchanging c_____ (Lev 11:44, Ezek 18:5-6)
- The New Testament r_____ the 10 commandments in various places (Rom 13:9, Ephesians 6:2-3)
- The Old Testament was the B_____ for the early church (2 Timothy 3:16)
- Jesus said he did not come to abolish the l_____ (Matt 5:17-18)
- Capital punishment is r_____ in the New Testament (John 19:10-11, Acts 25:11)

Luke's Rebuttal:

- God can and has willed things for different times for different people. Christ in fact revoked the laws of ceremonial unclean m_____ (1 Cor 5:7, Mark 7:19, Acts 10:15)
- Not all of the 10 commandments are r_____ in the New Testament. (Col 2:16)
- Compare Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:3, the blessings are different in their context, which shows a c_____.
- Adultery was excommunicable in the NT church, not capital punishment (1 Cor 5:5)
- Jesus did away with the OT laws by f_____ it (Matt 5:17-18, Rom 10:2-3)
- The NT is clear that Christ s_____ the law of Moses (2 Cor 3:7, 11; Hebrews 7:12, 8:13, Jeremiah 31:31, Galatians 3:25, Romans 6:15, Colossians 2:14)
- The Mosaic law was not u_____ during the OT (Exodus 12:49, Lev 20:2-5, 24:22)
- The apostles at the first church council set aside the l_____ (Acts 15:5)
- James affirmed the unity of the law (James 2:10)
- Paul said Christians are not u_____ law (Romans 6:14)
- The 10 Commandments are f_____ away (2 Cor 3:7-8, 11, Eph 2:15, Rom 8:1)

Retributionism: Capital punishment for some crimes. *(Luke's take)*

Biblical Basis:

- Genesis 9:5-6 *"From each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."*
- Human n_____ shows a need for capital punishment (Gen 1:27, Deuteronomy 32:39, Gen 9:6)
- While Cain did not get capital punishment, he deserved and e_____ it (Gen 4:10, 14)
- God gave the power of capital punishment to human g_____ (Gen 14, Romans 13)
- The additions for capital punishment for specifically Jewish people were not expected for the other n_____ (Ps 147:19-20)

Arguments against Retributionism:

- ***"It's cruel and unusual punishment...."*** So is the murder of an innocent life; justice demands a life for a life.
- ***"It is unfairly applied...."*** Not administering justice for any capital crime is not the solution for the injustice for some real crimes. Two wrongs do not make a right
- ***"It does not deter crime..."*** on the contrary, if we follow the biblical model, it does. (Duet 17:13) It may be because it is not administered quickly enough (Ecclesiastes 8:11) and even so, the purpose is not prevention, but punishment.
- ***"The criminal should be cured not killed..."*** this is a mistaken notion that justice is remedial, not penal, which is actually dehumanizing. Justice states that people are morally responsible for their actions.

- ***“Some murderers are not rationally responsible...”*** well of course, Moral responsibility assumes someone is morally responsible. For the handicapped and those too young to be socially accountable, this is not the expectation.
- ***“It is contrary to the concept of pardoning a criminal...”*** on the contrary, pardoning someone with a remedial view of justice makes no sense. All capital crimes deserve death, but not all criminals deserving death should necessarily die. For that matter, all offenses are worthy of death (Rom. 1:32; 6:23, Gen 4:10-14)

Positives of Retributionism:

- It is based on a high view of h_____
- It treats criminals with r_____
- It operates on a correct view of j_____
- It does deter c_____ (when followed through)
- It protects innocent l_____

WAR: Three views.

- **Activism:** all wars that a government engages in are ordained by God
- **Pacifism:** all war is evil because of the commandment “Thou shalt not kill”
- **Selectivism:** only just wars are ordained by God

Activism: Biblical Basis.

- Scripture tells us that Governments are o_____ by God (Gen 9:6; Rom 13; 1 Cor 14:33, 40)
- God is ultimately s_____ over nations and their kings (Dan 4:25)
- Jesus confirms the a_____ of the Government (Matt 22:21, John 19:11,
- Peter and Paul confirms it (1 Peter 2:13-14, Romans 13:1-7)

Pacifism: Biblical Basis.

- Thou Shalt not K_____ (Exodus 20:13)
- War is a necessary evil because of the h_____ of people’s hearts (Matt 19:8)
- “Blessed are the peacemakers” Matthew 5:9
- “Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you” (Luke 6:27-28)
- “Those who take the sword will p_____ by the sword” (Matthew 26:52)
- “Do not resist one who is evil, but if anyone strikes you on the right cheek turn to him the other also.” (Matthew 5:39)

Selectivism: (Luke’s position) What is Just War Theory?

The basis is built off of two main questions:

- Does a nation have a r_____ to go to war?
- Is a nation pursuing right c_____ in war?

#1 A right to go to war

- Competent Authority
- Probability of success
- Last resort
- Just cause

#2 Right Conduct in War

- Distinction between combatants and non-combatants
- Proportionality
- Military Necessity
- Fair treatment of prisoners of war
- No wrong means of war.

Biblical Basis for Selectivism:

- Examples of believers d_____ authorities (Daniel 6, Acts 4-5, Exodus 1:17:21)
- And yet, Government is ordained by God (Romans 13:1)
- David saving Keilah because they were being u_____ attacked (1 Sam 23:1-5)
- There are times where God c_____ war against other nations (Gen 15:16, Lev 18:25-27, Deut 20:16-17, Josh 10:40)
- Capital punishment is a model regarding n_____ problems (Gen 9:6)
- "Thou shalt not kill" does not mean ANY form of bloodshed!
- Killing in self-defense is a_____ (Ex 22:2)
- Melchizidek blessed Abraham for his j_____ war against the kings of the Valley of Siddim (Gen 14)
- Government does not bear the sword in vain (Rom 13:4)
- Being passive towards evil is morally w_____ (Psalm 82:3-4, James 4:17)