

God's Law commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves. **Abortion is a failure to love mothers and their unborn children.**

We have all broken God's Law. We are sinners who deserve His punishment.

God showed His love for sinners by giving His Son, Jesus, to be punished in their place. He forgives all who repent and believe this Good News.

We'd love to tell you more about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for sinners.

Meet us **Sundays** at **11.00am & 6.30 pm**, or contact Pastor Glenn Walters.

Grace Baptist Church
Market Street
Peel IM51AD

Email: gbc-peel@live.co.uk · Phone: 335 897
www.gbc-peel.org.uk

CHOOSE

Life

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WHAT IS ABORTION?

Abortion is a deliberate attack on an unborn child, usually by extracting or expelling the embryo or fetus from the mother's womb. It kills the baby.

WHEN IS ABORTION PERFORMED?

In Britain, most abortions are performed in the first third of pregnancy, although it is legal up to birth on some grounds, including the risk of fetal disability. The British law on abortion was passed in 1967, and amended in 1990.

Abortion is rarely performed for a woman's health. Most women who have abortions do so because of social or economic factors.

In many cases, women do not want an abortion, but other people put them under pressure. In Britain, the NHS runs programmes to detect and abort disabled babies, which account for about 3,100 abortions a year.

HOW MANY REGISTERED ABORTIONS TAKE PLACE?

Over 8.5 million registered abortions have taken place in Britain since 1968, when the Abortion Act came into force. Around 200,000 abortions take place each year (about 190,000 in England and Wales, and 11,000 in Scotland). That amounts to over 500 abortions every day.

WHAT METHODS OF ABORTION ARE USED IN BRITAIN?

Many abortions are performed using drugs. Some drugs interfere with the hormones that help sustain the pregnancy; others cause strong contractions of the womb, expelling the baby. Another method is surgical abortion, performed by forcing open the neck of the womb, and then inserting instruments to kill and extract the baby.

All abortions carry short and long-term risks for the mother.

WHAT IS POST-ABORTION TRAUMA (PAT)?

Many women experience grief, guilt and anger associated with the loss of a child through the abortion decision. PAT is a form of

The first: weeks of life

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| Day 1 | Conception - the sperm and egg meet in fertilization. Genetic make-up complete. There is a new, living human being. |
| Days 6-12 | The new, unique human being implants in the lining of the mother's womb. |
| Days 17-20 | Blood vessels have begun to grow, and the baby's own blood cells start forming. The placenta is developing. |
| Day 20 | Foundation of the central nervous system is established. |
| 3 weeks | Heart starts to beat |
| 4-5 weeks | Ears and nose start to develop. Brain is rapidly expanding. |
| 6-7 weeks | Reflexes present. Liver, kidneys and lungs are forming. |
| 8 weeks | All the main organs are present. Electrical brain activity has been recorded. From now on, the baby continues to grow in the same way as a child grows into an adult. |
| 9-10 weeks | Babies at this stage can make a fist, and will grasp an object stroking their palm. They move in the womb with co-ordinated movements. |
| 4 months | The baby is half birth length, and the heart pumps 30 litres of blood daily. |
| 5 months | Hair appears on the head. Baby weighs 450 g and is 30 cm long. |
| 7 months | Eyes open. The baby can hear the mother's voice, as well as sounds outside her body. |
| 9 months | Birth - just another stage in an already well-advanced process. |

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Research indicates that at least 10% of women who have an abortion will suffer from PAT at some time in their lives.

ABORTION: ETHICAL OR NOT?

It is wrong to attack an innocent human being deliberately, whether in the cradle or the womb.

From conception, a new human being with a fully human genetic make-up has been created. Abortion is the deliberate extermination of this new human being, violating this tiny human's inherent right to life.

During the Parliamentary debates in 1967, it was claimed that thousands of women were dying through 'back street' (that is, illegal) abortions. This was a gross exaggeration. Official figures showed a total of 32 maternal deaths (including abortion deaths) in 1967. The death of any woman (along with her baby) from an abortion is deplorable. However, legalizing and funding abortion does not make it right; it merely makes us complicit in those deaths.

Some people argue that, while 'social abortions' are wrong, abortion is acceptable for disability, or in cases of rape. This is unjust discrimination. If a child is disabled, or a mother has been attacked, we should support them both.

Abortion does not undo violence or heal anyone. It kills an innocent victim.

Finally, abortion does not liberate women. As the pro-life suffragette Mattie Brinkerhoff noted, '... when a woman destroys the life of her unborn child, it is an evidence that either by education or circumstances she has been greatly wronged'.

Adapted from *Abortion: What everyone has a right to know* and *Abortion: What you need to know*, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, www.spuc.org.uk.