

– Continued from page 1 –

for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe” (Exodus 21:22-24). Punishment for harming an unborn child equaled the punishment prescribed for doing the same to any adult (Leviticus 24:19-21) because *“Jehovah hates... hands that shed innocent blood”* (Proverbs 6:16-17). During the present covenant, God has not ceased His hatred of violence nor altered its just penalty (Romans 1:30-32).

In most cases, abortion is chosen because the child is regarded as an inconvenience, but Solomon taught, *“Children are a heritage from Jehovah, the fruit of the womb is a reward”* (Psalm 127:3), and a man should be *“happy”* to have many of them (5)! Women of God who were childless lamented their situation (Genesis 30:1) and desperately prayed for children (1st Samuel 1:1-2:11). God’s first command to humankind was to increase the population (Genesis 1:28).

EUTHANASIA

The term “euthanasia” is derived from Greek words meaning “good death” and it refers to intentionally ending life in order to eliminate pain. So-called “mercy killing” has been done throughout the ages, but only recently with approval by medical practitioners. “Doctor assisted suicide,” as it is sometimes called, is legal in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, and Uruguay. In the United States, it has been legalized in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Vermont, as well as the District of Columbia. Ordinarily, euthanasia for human patients is administered pharmaceutically, either orally or via intramuscular or intravenous injection. Occasionally, it may be accomplished through oxygen deprivation.

Human life is the gift of God, as Paul preached, *“in Him we live and move and have our being... ‘For we are also His offspring”* (Acts 17:28). Thus the deliberate taking of human life, not as the punishment for crime (Genesis 9:6), is reprehensible in the eyes of the one who *“created man in His own image”* (1:26-27).

When King Saul lay mortally wounded on the battlefield (1st Samuel 31:3), he begged his armorbearer, *“Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and thrust me through and abuse me”* (4), yet he refused, being *“greatly afraid,”* and rightfully so! When a random Amalekite presented Saul’s crown to David and claimed to have answered the late king’s plea for death,

– Continued on page 3 –

– Continued from page 2 –

saying, *“I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen”* (2nd Samuel 1:10), that man was summarily executed for regicide (14-16). Relief from pain was Saul’s intention (9), but it was not a valid cause to euthanize him.

Suffering is not a worthless experience in the human condition (James 1:2-4). Its lessons develop the character of the godly (Romans 5:3-5; 1st Peter 4:12-14).

GENDER REASSIGNMENT

“Gender reassignment” is the medical process of altering a human body’s outward appearance to resemble the sex opposite its biological reality. The patient receives hormone treatment and undergoes surgeries to alter genitalia. A man attempting to appear female will have his penis and testicles removed and replaced with a faux vagina that will always be at risk of healing shut. A woman attempting to appear male will have a prosthetic penis surgically attached. In either case, the new equipment will remain non-functional – unable to achieve arousal and unable to reproduce. No matter what, women will retain XX chromosomes and men will retain XY chromosomes, regardless of what has been attached or removed by surgeons. Likewise, men will retain male DNA, even if they have been pumped full of estrogen, and women female DNA, even if they have been loaded up with testosterone. In 2019, 13,000 so-called “gender affirmation” operations were done in the United States, and in 2020, the number was 12,800, with no data available for years hence.

Gender is assigned by the Creator. *“From the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female”* (Mark 10:6). It should be enough to know the Lord is the rightful determiner of male or female. More than that, He is offended by those who disguise themselves as the opposite sex with their choice of wardrobe (Deuteronomy 22:5). If men and women wearing each other’s clothes irks the God who made men and women, then wearing imitations of each other’s regenerative organs surely disturbs the Almighty even more deeply.

Men and women have been appointed by God to vastly different functions in the home (Ephesians 5:22-33), in the church (1st Corinthians 14:34-35), in the military (Jeremiah 51:30), and in the government (Isaiah 3:12). An attempt to change a man into a woman or vice versa is an attempt to undermine the roles God intended for each to fill.

– Continued on page 4 –

"WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?"

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

"THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER"

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.**

- Continued from page 3 -

COSMETICS

From rhinoplasty to abdominoplasty to liposuction, to breast augmentation, and dozens of other operations, there were 20 million aesthetic procedures performed worldwide in 2014-2015. People are unhappy with their appearances, and medical professionals are eager to profit from their discontent.

While plastic surgeons do well to repair defects and injuries, that is hardly comparable to merely cosmetic surgery whereby patients are obsessed with how they look. The Holy Spirit has clearly revealed that such preoccupation distracts from the pursuit of inward beauty (1st Peter 3:3-4; 1st Timothy 2:9-10). *"Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised"* (Proverbs 31:30).

CONCLUSION

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick" (Luke 5:31). Jesus had a spiritual application, but the analogy would fail if it was not true physically. The purpose of medical practice is to treat illness or injury and to exceed that limited purpose is to flirt with harm.

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 49

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023

DO NO HARM

Bryan Matthew Dockens

The first canon of medical ethics is: "Do no harm." Since Hippocrates, the so-called "Father of Medicine," set forth his school of thought in the fourth century B.C., refraining from harm has always been at the heart of the Hippocratic oath. Modern physicians are straying far from these good intentions.

ABORTION

Medical Doctors in falsely-named "reproductive health" clinics routinely use violence to end the lives of children in the womb. Their methods employ vacuum aspirators to suck babies in whole or in part from the mother's uterus, forceps to dismember the infants, and curettes to scrape the child's body parts off the uterine walls. In some instances, pharmaceuticals are injected directly into the heart of the fetus to stop the heartbeat. In other cases, scissors are stabbed into the back of the little one's head and spread open so a tube can be inserted and the brain suctioned out. The deliberate termination of pregnancy is the total opposite of "Do no harm."

Through Moses, God dictated to Israel, *"If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand*

- Continued on page 2 -

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist