



A TALKING POINTS BOOK BY
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ABORTION

the goodbook
COMPANY

Abortion

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Published by:

The Good Book Company



thegoodbook.com | www.thegoodbook.co.uk

thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz | thegoodbook.co.in

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ISBN: 9781784984434 | Printed in Denmark

Design by André Parker

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INTRODUCTION

TALKING POINTS

The world is changing at an astonishing speed.

And not just politics, technology and communication, but our whole culture, morality and attitudes. Christians living in Western culture have enjoyed the benefit of being in a world which largely shared our assumptions about what is fundamentally right and wrong. We can no longer assume that this is the case.

In two short generations we have moved to a widespread adoption of liberal values, many of which are in conflict with the teaching of the Bible. Increasingly, believers are finding themselves to be the misunderstood minority and feeling at odds with where the world seems to be heading.

But let's not be short-sighted: some of this change has been good. Christians have often failed to discern the difference between our own cultural values and those that are demanded by Scripture. We are as prone to bigotry as others. We have much to repent of in our attitudes towards, for example, the freedom and role of women in society, and our lack

of compassion and understanding towards those who have wrestled with same-sex attraction, for example.

Sometimes it's easier to protest and rage against the tide of history than to go back to our Bibles and think carefully about what God is saying—holding up society's views, and our own, to the truth-revealing mirror that is God's word.

At our best, we Christians have been in the forefront of social reform. Think of the great nineteenth-century reformers of the slave trade, prisons and poverty: William Wilberforce, Elizabeth Fry and Lord Shaftesbury. But too often, we now find ourselves on the back foot, unable to articulate a clear response to a pressing question of our day. And even when we have understood God's mind on a particular issue, we have struggled to apply it compassionately in our speech and in our relationships. Christians are called to be wise and gentle, even when the temptation is to call out injustices and be rightly angry. The way to approach these issues is to prayerfully and humbly seek to understand our culture and discern the times.

This short series of books is an attempt to help ordinary Christians think constructively about a range of issues—moral, ethical and cultural—that run against the grain for those who name Christ as Lord. We want to stimulate believers to talk with each other as we search the Scriptures together. The aim is to help us think biblically, constructively and

compassionately, and not to feel intimidated when we are challenged or questioned, or, perhaps worse, remain silent. This book will lend perspective and offers some biblical guidance on following God and loving people as God loves us.

WHAT THIS BOOK IS NOT...

In such a short book, we can only begin to address the many aspects of what is a complex and controversial issue. Nor have we attempted to present a thorough treatment of all the Bible has to say on this question. But we do aim to give you an accessible introduction to the debate and the many questions that surround abortion. When you have read this short book, our hope is that many of you will be left wanting more. If this is you, we would refer you to the resources section at the end.

But we also want this book to take us all beyond a merely intellectual discussion of the issue to a genuine compassion and love for those who feel compelled to consider abortion or who are struggling with personal problems in its aftermath. We hope this book will be a first step towards understanding the landscape around this issue and an encouragement to know and share the love, hope and freedom we have in Christ.

Tim Thornborough

Series Editor | December 2019

abortion

[a-bor-shun]

noun: **abortion**

1. The deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks.

synonyms: termination, miscarriage; *rare* feticide
“she had an abortion”

[Source: Google definitions]

“No woman has an abortion for fun.”

Elizabeth Joan Smith, Canadian politician

“No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether she will or will not be a mother.”

Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood

“I’ve noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born.”

Ronald Reagan

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

“A person is a person no matter how small.”

Dr. Seuss, *Horton Hears a Who*

“My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Psalm 139 v 15-16

A PERSONAL NOTE TO THE READER

At the outset, we want to acknowledge that you, as the reader, may be approaching this from a variety of very different perspectives.

You may be someone who has a deep concern about abortion as a political and social issue in our society, and is seeking further understanding and clarification of what the Bible teaches and what Christians believe on this subject.

Or maybe your questions are much more personal: you have had an abortion yourself, and there are questions and emotions you are processing, even years later. Perhaps you are considering having an abortion at the moment, and don't know what to do as you listen to powerful and conflicting voices—in your own mind as well as from others. Or maybe you are someone who has been affected by abortion as a partner, a parent, grandparent or a child.

We want you to know that however difficult things are for you now, we believe that God is first and foremost a God of love and compassion. Please forgive any clumsiness on our part in talking about this subject. We certainly don't want to bring you any unnecessary pain. Rather, we long that you will find comfort, healing and hope in the message of the gospel and the fellowship of God's people.

Lizzie Ling and Vaughan Roberts

WHERE ARE WE?

CHAPTER ONE

Worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 40 million induced abortions every year. In the US there are, on average, around 2,400 abortions a day; in the UK, there are around 600.

Then there are consequences. Some experience relatively few, but many acknowledge that they are real and that they can be crippling—for men as well as women.

And then, the bigger questions. *How does God see these things? What does the Bible have to say? Is this how it was meant to be? Is it right?*

We also want to understand our individual responsibility. *How should we support those for whom this is a very personal issue: perhaps those who are considering an abortion or suffering because of one in the past—and can we do it well? And what about campaigning—to raise awareness and prompt legislative change?*

The aim of this short book is to explore some of