

# *Hobby Lobby and the Supreme Court*

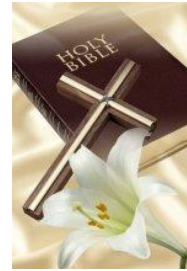


A closer look at contraceptives, abortion,  
and the 2014 Supreme Court Ruling

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# Introduction



*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 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." - Psalm 139:13-14*

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During a recent team meeting at work, a co-worker of mine decided to go off on Hobby Lobby in regards to the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in June 2014 that states that the arts and crafts store and any company with "sincerely held religious beliefs do not have to provide a full range of contraceptives at no cost to their employees pursuant to the Affordable Care Act." A contraceptive, in case you don't know, is "a device or drug serving to prevent pregnancy."

I didn't speak up, as I didn't feel like that was the time and place to do so, but I do plan on bringing this up to him sometime when I can get him alone.

And what would I say, you ask?

I would definitely start by asking, "If you don't agree with the Supreme Court ruling and what Hobby Lobby is doing, that's perfectly fine. But I'm curious. Do you understand why Hobby Lobby is taking the stance they are?" From the little I know of him, I'm willing to bet he doesn't know the specific reasons, and he'll just claim that Hobby Lobby is run by a bunch of ultra-conservative, uncaring Christians. Seems like that's the conclusion a lot of non-Christian, non-biblical people jump to before they even try to understand the real reasons for what they believe. If that is his response, and if he's interested in continuing (and hopefully he will be) I'd try to explain it to him.

## Hobby Lobby's Stance

I would first explain that Hobby Lobby is a Christian-owned company that had specific objections to offering "emergency contraceptives", or "morning after pills" which in a nutshell are post-sex contraceptives that are supposedly effective up to about seventy-two hours after intercourse. Hobby Lobby had provided its employees the contraceptives Plan-B and Ella (via "Obama Care") until it dropped its coverage in 2012, the year it filed its lawsuit.

Being a Christian organization, Hobby Lobby believes, as do all Christians, that God is our creator, the Bible is God's infallible "instruction guide" for all of us, thus we are obligated to follow it. So what in the Bible contradicts contraceptive use, and even further, abortion?

Besides the potential for an abortion (see **Abortion** below), this type of contraceptive encourages pre-marital sex, or as the Bible puts it, sexual immorality. Webster, by the way, defines "immorality", or the act of being "immoral", as "doing something not morally good or right; morally evil or wrong". So add sex to that, and you get morally wrong, or morally bad, sex.



God makes it very clear on how He feels about sexual immorality: "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality." (1 Thess 4:3), "The body is not meant for sexual immorality." (1 Cor. 6:13), and "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body." (1 Cor. 6:18).

## Immorality the Bible

So the next question would be, what type of sex does the Bible, according to Christianity, consider immoral? The Bible in several areas discusses how sacred marriage is (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5 and Mark 10:7 and others). There are two scriptures in particular that clearly infer that any sex performed outside of marriage is regarded as immoral. 1 Corinthians 7:2, states "But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. ", while Hebrews 13:4 says "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. " And that is just what he did to Sodom and Gomorrah, two towns he destroyed greatly in part to the sexual immorality that ran rampant there ("...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire." – Jude 7:7.) Incidentally, both Webster and dictionary.com write that the modern word "sodomy" originated from the story of Sodom ("...unnatural sexual relations, such as those imputed to the inhabitants of Biblical Sodom, (Genesis 19:1-11) especially between persons of the same sex but also with beasts.")

In the New Testament alone, there are over 30 references condoning "sexual immorality", or as some Bible translations refer to it, "fornication", which the dictionary defines as "sexual intercourse between people not married to each other". So it's pretty clear that this is a big no-no according to God.

## Abortion

Of the approximately 44 million abortions performed globally each year, over 85 percent involve women who simply do not want to have a baby. That's over 41 million each year! It is true that the Bible never specifically mentions the word "abortion". However, God does reveal in two scriptures that "He knows us" and forms us in the womb:

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5).*

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 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 139:13-16).*

Another scripture, Exodus 21:22-25 explains how serious it is to cause the death of a baby in the womb:

*"If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise."*



This clearly indicates that God not only knows us before we are born, but also considers a baby in the womb to be as human as a full-grown adult, as the penalty is the same for the killing of both. For the Christian, abortion is not a matter of a woman's right to choose. It is a matter of the life or death of a human being made in God's image:

*"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6).*

Also, according to a 2014 CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) study, 85.5% of abortions were performed on unmarried women<sup>1</sup>. So, as stringent God's law on marriage appears to be to many, this is one of the of consequences for not following it.

### **Pro-Abortion Argument 1: "What about cases of rape or incest?"**

As horrific as the acts of rape and incest are, there's no escaping the fact that the baby is completely innocent. Should it be punished for the evil acts of its father? Do two wrongs make a right? As a result, the child who is a result of rape/incest could be given in adoption to a loving family unable to have children on their own, or the child could be raised by its mother. In addition, a 2004 study by the Guttmacher Institute showed that 0.5% of abortions were performed as a result of rape.

### **Pro-Abortion Argument 2: "What about when the life of the mother is at risk?"**

Of the approximately 44 million abortions performed globally each year, less than 5 percent are for the reasons of rape, incest, or the mother's health at risk. In the more difficult 5 percent of instances, the Christian view would first be prayer and faith that God can and will protect the mother and baby during childbirth is the action to be taken, rather than the aborting of the child.

### **Pro-Abortion Argument 3: "Technically, the baby isn't a 'human' until after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester"**

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## **Reporters Who've Attended Abortions**

In 1976, Dr. Richard Selzer was a surgeon at Yale University. In January of that year, he wrote an article for **Esquire Magazine** entitled *"What I Saw at the Abortion"*. In his piece, he described witnessing a prostaglandin-injection abortion, first developed in 1934 by Eugen Aburel, performed at 19 weeks gestation.

*"This type of abortion is performed by inserting a syringe into the woman's abdomen and injecting her womb with a prostaglandin solution, which would bring on contractions and cause a miscarriage." Dr. Setzer goes on to explain that "this method isn't used anymore, because too often the baby survived the procedure — chemically burned and disfigured, but clinging to life."*



What Dr. Selzer then described, [which you can read here](#), is quite disturbing:

*"It is unexpected, utterly unexpected, like a disturbance in the earth, a tumultuous jarring. I see something other than what I expected here. I see a movement—a small one. But I have seen it. And then I see it again. And now I see that it is the hub of the needle in the woman's belly that has jerked. First to one side. Then to the other side. Once more it wobbles, is tugged, like a fishing line nibbled by a sunfish. Again! And I know it is the fetus that worries thus. It is the fetus struggling against the needle."*

Pro-abortionish, feminist and Roe vs. Wade supporter Frederica Mathewes-Green [wrote an article for the National Review](#) in where she discussed how reading Dr. Selzer's article made her change her stance on abortion:

*"He realized he was seeing the fetus's desperate fight for life. And as he watched, he saw the movement of the syringe slow down and then stop. The child was dead. Whatever else an unborn child does not have, he has one thing: a will to live. He will fight to defend his life."*

*The truth of what he saw disturbed me deeply. There I was, anti-war, anti-capital punishment, even vegetarian, and a firm believer that social justice cannot be won at the cost of violence. Well, this sure looked like violence. How had I agreed to make this hideous act the centerpiece of my feminism? How could I think it was wrong to execute homicidal criminals, wrong to shoot enemies in wartime, but all right to kill our own sons and daughters?"*

A 2013 article in **Life News** tells of other stories by reporters who have personally witnessed abortions. You can read it here: <https://www.lifenews.com/2013/01/30/reporters-who-watch-abortions-tell-of-their-brutal-reality/>.

## Conclusion

The good news is that the sin of abortion is no less forgivable than any other sin. A woman who has had an abortion, a man who has encouraged an abortion, or even a doctor who has performed one—can all be forgiven by faith in our savior Jesus.

So that would be my spiel to my co-worker. Even if he didn't agree, at least he'd have a better understanding. I'd at least put a "pebble in his shoe".

Resources:

- <http://abort73.com/abortion-facts/us-abortion-statistics/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6624a1.htm>
- <http://jeffshomepage.co.nf/writings/Publish/documents/WhatISawattheAbortion.pdf>
- <https://www.nationalreview.com/2016/01/abortion-roe-v-wade-unborn-children-women-feminism-march-life/>
- <https://www.lifenews.com/2013/01/30/reporters-who-watch-abortions-tell-of-their-brutal-reality/>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6624a1.htm#T15\\_down](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/ss/ss6624a1.htm#T15_down)

