

ABORTION

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"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

Earlier this year a leading American Doctor visited Sydney as the guest of Foundation Genesis. His name is Dr. Nathanson and he is a prominent anti-abortionist. As such he is uniquely placed to make a comment on the subject of abortion, since for a number of years he was pro-abortion. Not only so, he was very prominent indeed in having the abortion laws liberalised in the U.S.A., and he presided over no fewer than 75,000 abortions. Now, however, he opposes abortion as fervently as he once advocated it. He does not do so on religious grounds, since he is an atheist. Rather, he was led to this position by scientific research on the subject of the unborn child.

In the 1960s Dr. Nathanson was one of those who actually coined the phrase "Right to control one's own body". "I made that up as well as Betty Friedan, so I know", he says, "I know how hollow these slogans are."

Why does he now believe that this slogan is "hollow" and meaningless, an excuse for thought? Because of the clear scientific evidence that the fetus is not part of the mother. He writes "we know from immunological methods that every pregnancy is recognised by the woman's body as non-self. Non-self. We have a very sophisticated immune system as a defence system in our body ... The researches have shown that each time a pregnancy implants the mother marshalls a very strong defence reaction against that foreign object and attempts to destroy it and expel it. And it is only because the fetus has an equally sophisticated method of repelling the mother's defenders that most pregnancies continue to term. Now about 10% of the time, pregnancies are lost through miscarriages, and miscarriage is a result of the woman's defence systems

repelling and ejecting the invader. What I am trying to tell you is that pregnancy is not the self of the woman. The woman's defence mechanisms are trained or schooled to recognise self, and that is the reason that they do not destroy her heart, her appendix or any other organ in her body. But when the fetus is seen, the fetus is recognised as non-self and there is an attempt in every single pregnancy to expel that pregnancy ... it is not her own body,- she is merely, as I say, the host for a very limited period of time - the hostess, if you like."

I have quoted Dr. Nathanson at length because of the importance of this point. The destruction of the fetus is the destruction of a living being - different from us only in the sense that it is vulnerable and unable to speak for itself. It is a scandalous blot on our society that we allow this to continue, and we will suffer the judgment of God if we fail to repent and change our ways.

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