

Box 80A

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF SEX II

ABORTION II

"OUR BODIES ARE NOT OURS"

D.B. KNOX

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The Women's Liberation Movement has the much used argument that we have a right to do whatever we want with our own bodies and from that draws the conclusion that women have the right to have abortions if they choose. But the statement is wrong, although it seems on the surface correct. We do not have a right to do what we like with our bodies, because they are not ours in the first place. We didn't make them; they were given to us when we were given life, and we have got to use our bodies in accordance with the purpose for which they were given to us. If we don't, we will in effect be embezzling a trust, and of course we have to give an account and pay the penalty on the Judgement Day, and go to prison for embezzlement just like anybody who embezzles a trust fund has to do here.

Our bodies have been given to us by our creator to use in the service of other people, and for Christians there is a further strong reason, our Saviour has bought us back from the destruction for which we were headed, so that doubly we are not our own, but we have been bought as well as created, to be the servants of our Saviour and Lord.

We must use our bodies for the purpose they were given. We may gather what this purpose is by reflection on human life, but we gather it much more quickly by going to the manufacturers manual, as it were. Our creator has given us His purpose for our life in the Bible. That is His word, it is the manual. There we learn a very interesting thing about our bodies, namely that the sexual side of our

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bodies are for the purpose of relationship, to relate ourselves to our spouse. That is why masturbation is an aberration, and why homosexuality, whether male or female, is a complete perversion, for all these sexual deviants are self centred and we are not to be self centred especially in the use of our sexual nature. for it is given to us to express and strengthen the personal relationship of marriage. So it is wrong to say that our bodies are our own to do what we like with, and consequently the argument that abortion is therefore justified is wrong. In fact it is doubly wrong for not only are our bodies not for selfish use, but the embryo in the womb is not part of its mother's body, for it is another body distinct from its mothers, and it is not simply a part of its mother's body like an appendix or a toe. This is clear when we remember that all the cells of its mother's body have the same genetic code whether the cells are in the appendix or the toe or any other part of the body, but all the cells of the foetus have quite a different genetic code from the cells of its mother's body. It is human life in its own right. Certainly it is being protected and nourished by its mother's body, but it is not simply a part of its mother's body as though its mother could do what she likes with her own body. Once conception takes place the point of decision has been passed. Only if the embryo is an invader, or is threatening its mother can it be attacked. Otherwise it ought to be protected.



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