

## **POSITION PAPER RELATED TO ABORTION**

### PREAMBLE:

Life is a gift from God and very precious (Gen. 1:27; Psalm 139:13-16) . Therefore as a church, we are for life. The seemingly wanton taking of life by means of abortion is undermining the sacredness of life in our land. There is need for us in our church fellowship to become informed regarding abortion. As the board of spiritual and social concerns we want to reaffirm the position of Arborg Christian Fellowship as it relates to abortion as follows:

### Arborg Christian Fellowship Position:

#### We believe:

1. That man was made in the image of God
2. That an attack on man's life constitutes a violation of God's expressed will
3. That life begins for man at conception and that even in the unborn state, man possess life as God gave it, with all potential for development into knowledge of, and faith in God as Creator, Savior and Lord.

#### Due to the above beliefs, we affirm:

1. All abortion (the deliberate termination of pregnancy except when the mothers life is seriously threatened) is a violation of God's will.
2. That we as a brotherhood support and encourage those in helping professions (social workers, nurses, doctors, psychiatrists and ministers) to stand firm in this view, and seek to bring their colleagues and the community at large to see how abortion seriously contributes to the erosion of human values.
3. That we as individuals to inform ourselves as best we can towards a realistic understanding of the whole issue of abortion with its related considerations. As well, we will give expression to such understanding as we have opportunity and that we do so without suggestion of compromise if we align ourselves with like minded groups to strengthen our witness in the community.
4. That we as individuals and as a church, share the above concerns with the elected representatives of our governments, influencing the formulation of the laws of land with respect to abortion.
5. That we recognize our responsibility for social, moral and spiritual conditions in our communities, and the shaping of attitudes, and that we seek to fulfill such responsibilities by:
  - (a) lending support to whatever preventative measures we can consciously support.
  - (b) seeking to develop attitudes of social acceptance of the single parents without endorsing their actions leading to the pregnancy.
  - (c) helping to provide caring facilities for those who choose to let their pregnancy go full term rather than choosing abortion.

### IMPLICATIONS

#### We realize:

1. The New Testament view of fighting evil is different than the Old Testament. For example in the Old Testament an adulterer was put to death (Lev.20:10), but in the New Testament the woman taken in adultery was forgiven by Jesus (John 8:4-11).

2. The Old Testament armies were arrayed to destroy evil in the name of the Lord (I Sam. 17:26), but in the New Testament Jesus called us to be peace makers (Matt. 5:9).

3. In the New Testament when soldiers came to take Jesus, Peter was prepared to use force to cut off the high priests' servants ear (Matt. 26:51-53; John 18:10-11, 36). Jesus indicated that His kingdom is not of this world otherwise He would have called an army together and fought. The New Testament fight against evil is a spiritual battle.

4. Our position is one of persuading people not to sin but not physically forcing people not to sin. If we are no longer allowed to speak and persuade we will then and only then be prepared to break the law of the land (Acts 4:18-20).

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Through the pastoral staff and elders, a means will be provided to heighten the congregational awareness regarding abortion, and other social issues including divorce, poverty, pornography, alcoholism, and drug abuse. (Ephesians 5:7-17).