

# *Abortion & Euthanasia*

# *Introduction*



- The Sanctity of Life
- Life is a gift from God
- Humans are made in the image of God
- Humanity has a special relationship with God
- ‘You shall not murder’ – Exodus 20 v.13
- Only God can take away life

# *Abortion*

- Termination of the life of the foetus
- Moral dilemma – is the foetus human?
- When does the foetus become human?
- Abortion Act 1967
- Threat to life or health of the mother
- Foetus could be handicapped
- Risk to health of other children

# *Abortion – for and against*

- The woman's right to choose
- Quality of life for the child
- Doctrine of 'double effect'
- Right of the foetus to life
- Right of the foetus to be valued
- Sanctity of life

## *Recent developments*

- Department of Health November 2005 statistics
- 194,160 abortions last year in UK
- Abortions cost £75 million per year - £400 each.
- One in five pregnancies terminated (one in two for under 18s)

# *Royal College of Obstetricians –*

*Nov. 2005*

- 50 babies per year born alive in abortion procedures – ‘sub-standard medicine’
- ‘These are babies that can be born alive and survive’
- Is this murder?
- Babies aborted after 22 weeks should have their hearts stopped by drug injection first.
- Should time limit be reduced to 18 weeks?

# *Euthanasia*



- ‘Good death’
- Active & Passive
- Death with dignity
- End of pain
- Saves NHS money
- Release of burden on family

# *The Problems*



- People may recover
- Killing, not curing
- Pressure on the sick and elderly
- The Hospice Movement