Psalm 139:13-16 - "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them." **Jeremiah 1:5** – "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." Luke 1:44; 2:12 - "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ... And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

It is considered politically incorrect to oppose abortion. After all, a woman's body is her own and we have no right to tell her what she can and can't do with it. At least, that is what we are told. However, as the verses above demonstrate, the Biblically correct view is vastly different. The Bible teaches that all of life is sacred – from the womb to the tomb.

Whereas the Bible doesn't say explicitly, "Thou shalt not have an abortion," it does forbid the shedding of innocent blood, which is precisely what abortion is (Prov. 6:17). In fact, type the words "innocent blood" into your Bible software program and get ready for some reading. There are at least twenty passages that speak of how God views the shedding of innocent blood. Shedding innocent blood is no small matter in the eyes of God. It is an abomination! How then can the child of God cast a vote for a politician who has blatantly promised to perpetuate the practice of that which God calls abominable?

The Scriptures implicitly teach that life in the womb is sacred. Look again at the declaration of the Psalmist to God in Psalm 139:13-16 quoted above. One cannot read this passage, and the passage in Jeremiah 1:5, without recognizing that God

acknowledges life in the womb as worthy of His notice. It is not just a "blob of tissue."

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit described John the Baptizer in the womb with the Greek word *brephos*, translated "babe" in Luke 1:41, 44. This same word is used to describe Jesus after he had been born (Luke 2:12), thus demonstrating that in God's eyes, both are equally human. The only difference is in development and environment. A small crumb of bread is still bread and a tiny human being is still a human being.

The Biblically correct view points out that a body, other than the woman's body, is involved in every abortion. It is, of course, the tiny body of the unborn child that is shredded, mutilated and extracted from the woman's body. All of the fancy talk and politically correct references to the fetus, cannot change the stark truth and reality of abortion. Abortion is the deliberate taking (killing) of a human life. Do you doubt it? If so, then answer a couple of questions please. 1) Is that which is in the woman's body a human being? Of course it is! 2) From whence did it come? From two human beings! At conception, a tiny human being is formed.

Is that which is in the woman's body alive? Well, why do you think abortion is necessary? Everyone knows that a living human being is developing in the mother's womb and that if something isn't done to prevent it, this living human being will finally be born. The fetus is human, for it came from two humans. The fetus is alive or else it wouldn't be necessary to kill it; thus every abortion is the deliberate killing of innocent human life. That sounds a lot like the definition of murder to me.

In the future, when you go into the voting booth, will you remember that shedding innocent blood is an abomination in the sight of God?! Will someone please tell me how a child of God can conscientiously cast a vote for a politician who has blatantly promised to perpetuate the practice of that which God calls abominable?!

Leviticus 18:22 – "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination." **Matthew 19:4-5** – "And He answered and said to them, 'Have you not read that He who made them at the

beginning "made them male and female," and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"?" Genesis 2:24 – "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

The very foundations of marriage and the home are under attack and sadly, many political leaders are leading the charge. To condemn homosexuality is politically incorrect. However, those who are interested in Biblical correctness will say, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (Lev. 18:22). Suppose that a Presidential candidate answered a question about homosexuality by saying, "My position about homosexuality is identical to that of the Holy Bible. I believe that homosexuality is vile, against nature, shameful and the activity of a debased mind" (cf. Rom. 1:26-27). If a candidate so answered, he would be crucified by the media and the politically correct crowd. Though considered politically incorrect, he would be Biblically correct, and, all other things being equal, he would receive my vote if his opponent believed otherwise. We need to realize that our vote may pave the way for the destruction of our society, because the downfall of the home is but a prelude to the downfall of a nation!

Conclusion

The relationship between man and civil government is often complex. The simple truth of the matter is that God ordained government for the benefit of His creation. We must honor government, but never more than we honor God.

We must honor the call of our Lord to be 'salt' and 'light' in this unbelieving world (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:16). The greatest impact the church can make upon society is through the lives of its individual members. We can change the world by changing the people in the world. For example, though there is no express command forbidding slavery in the New Testament, the attitudes bound upon men toward their fellow-men within the New Testament, if practiced, will abolish slavery in a culture. The book of Philemon is a good example of this.

In addition to influencing the culture through the proclamation of the Gospel, both by my lips and my life, I must determine to be salt and light by assisting the most righteous leaders with my vote. It may not be possible to elect a man who perfectly meets each and every qualification, and God forbid, the time may come when all candidates are equally immoral in their platforms. However, when there is a clear and discernible moral divide between the candidates, the Christian must vote on the basis of Christianity. He must vote in such a way as to advance the cause of moral righteousness!

When I know that Jesus loves righteousness and hates iniquity (Heb. 1:9), and when I know that He hates the shedding of innocent blood (Prov. 6:16-17) and that He opposes "same-sex marriage" (Gen. 2; Matt. 19:4-6), I cannot, and will not, punch a card, pull the lever, or touch the screen for a candidate who is determined to promote that which my Lord opposes! Neither will I boycott the ballot box and let such a man be elected by my failure to be salt and light!

B. J. Clarke (Seek the Old Paths, Vol. 23, No. 10 [Oct. 2012], pp. 73, 76-77)