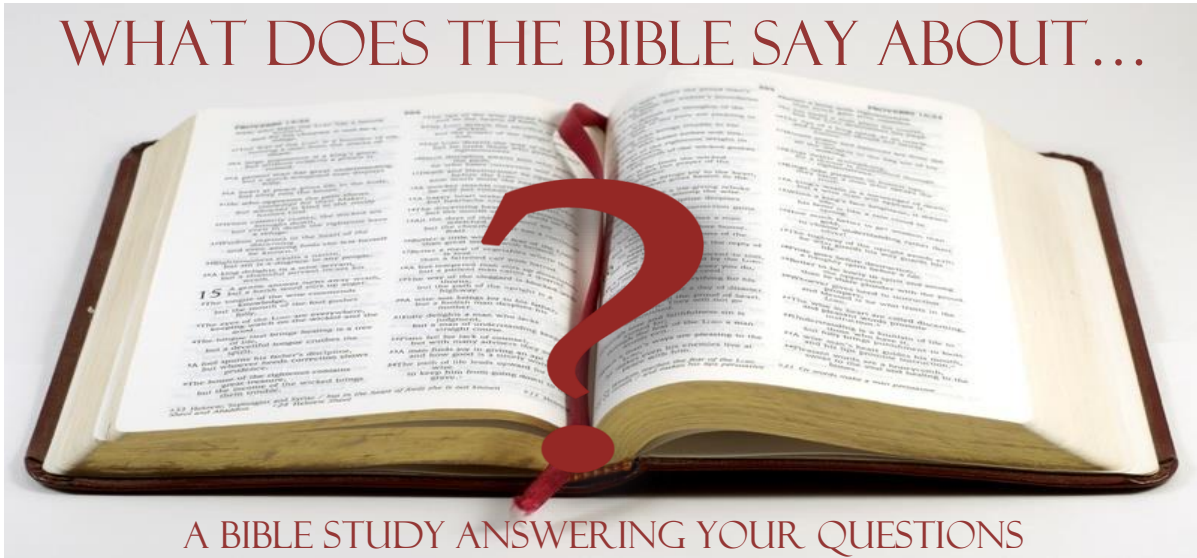


WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT...



Lesson Three

Organ donation?

What would happen when your physical body is in several places... When the resurrection happens? And what if your "parts" are in several people?

In all seriousness, it's important to understand a few vital points:

1. Medical intervention goes way back in recorded human history. Luke was a "beloved physician"; he was a doctor, healer (Colossians 4:14).
2. Secondly, Jesus healed many people. This was, in a sense, medical intervention. He also raised dead people to life again including Lazarus who was dead for three days. This is clearly, medical intervention.
3. There are some references in the Bible to herbs, poultices, pouring wine into a wound etc... These are all medical interventions.
4. Whether it's complex intervention or slight intervention, it's still intervention.
5. Does medical intervention interfere with God's will? I will answer this at the end of this portion of the lesson.

There are many people who have received organ transplants who continue today to be wonderful contributing members of our society. I know one minister

(I'm sure there are many, many more) who had an organ transplant who has gone on to win many hundreds of people to the Lord.

Some religions, in particular, the Jehovah witnesses, place far too much emphasis on the blood to the point of refusing transfusions. Therefore, organ donation, to them, would be unimaginable. The catholic church is against the tissue of a dead person being used in a living person.

The Bible was written at a time when such ideas were impossible to comprehend.

Popular medical practices focused on herbal remedies, poultices, and likely some minor surgical procedures, which may have included amputation.

But, to think of someone donating their eyes, lungs, heart etc... It was impossible.

1. That being said, is there any Scriptural basis either way, for or against organ donation?
2. Does it interfere with God's will if they receive an organ donation?

Is there Scriptural basis, either way, for or against organ donation?

The closest thing I can come up with is the record of Paul and his "thorn in the flesh".

2 Corinthians 12:1-10 ¹ It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. ² I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) ⁴ How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ⁵ Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. ⁶ For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me *to be*, or *that* he heareth of me. ⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul had a "thorn in the flesh". We really don't know exactly what it is or was. However, I believe he suffered from either poor eye sight or blindness.

Paul said,

Galatians 4:15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.

If Paul's thorn in the flesh was blindness, he recognized although impossible at the time, that the Galatians would have done anything they could to have helped him.

You might have a strong conviction about whether or not you would donate your organs. **However you feel, you are right.** No one is forcing you to donate or not to donate.

The important thing is that we have the right spirit about it.

No one is going to hell for donating or for not donating their organs.

This is where we ought to have love and grace for our brother and sister so that even though we have a strong feeling, or what we might think is a "conviction", we have to still be unified and merciful to one another.

So, does medical intervention interfere with God's will?

1. I don't believe so. If it's God's "will" that someone die, nothing will keep them alive.
2. We see in many cases that Jesus interfered by healing people, therefore we must assume that it is acceptable.

The big question goes back to personal conviction. If you are against using medical intervention, then don't. If you believe you should have medical intervention but the sick person doesn't, don't force your will on them.

The Bible places quite a bit of emphasis on allowance for, and respect of, one's personal convictions, but not to the disunity of the body.

We can disagree without being disagreeable.

So the last question is, what happens if a saved person dies, donates their body parts, and the recipients are people who are lost? The Lord comes again (the rapture/resurrection), will these parts be taken back from those people who are alive? Only God can answer this.

What does the Bible say about...? Contraception.

This is a tough question to answer.

First, the Bible is clearly against abortion; this is murder.

However, if you are a lady who has gone through with abortion, please note, you can be forgiven. Do not be condemned about doing this, just ask for forgiveness.

Christianity is against "birth control" or "birth prevention". Let me explain... birth control and prevention seems to infer allowance for, even "control or prevention" after conception has occurred.

As Christians, we must understand that eliminating what has already been conceived is abortion.

**So, is Christianity, the Bible, against "conception prevention, or contraception"?
No, I don't believe so.**

Abortion is not a contraceptive.

There are now drugs like the "morning after pill". This and other methods that could cause an abortion are wrong.

There are some contraceptive methods that give me great concern. Such as IUD's. These devices are placed in the uterus and although we are told they prevent pregnancy, they can actually cause a fertilized egg to detach from the uterus, thus abortion.

I do not see where "conception control" measures, and or contraceptives are wrong, unless, they cause a fertilized egg to abort.

Some doctors argue that "it's just tissue". No it's not. If that tissue, as some call it, or that "BABY", as we call it, goes full term, it will be a living breathing human being. But I submit that it's a living (maybe not breathing yet) human being.

Judges 16:17 Samson was dedicated to God even when he was in his mother's womb (Psalm 139:13, Luke 1:15).

It is within the power of a man and his wife to use methods such as "rhythm methods", etc... Of course, abstinence works 100% of the time.

Some argue that "the pill" prevents the egg from being released. I'm no doctor, and do not have enough knowledge to guide you there.

There are surgical procedures that prevent pregnancy most of the time, again, I cannot guide you to a decision here, If you choose surgery, I don't see a prohibition against it.

The catholic church teaches against birth control. I don't see justification for their outright ban on contraceptives.

What should someone do when the "baby" is thought to be deformed, retarded, or may not survive?

This is a huge and emotional topic. I answer this with love and as close as I can be to Biblical principles.

God is a healer!

God is also supreme and omniscient; doctors are not.

I personally know of people who were told, "Your child is not normal and may not survive, we recommend you abort it". They went through with the pregnancy, prayed, and the baby was born completely normal.

I also personally know a minister and his wife that were told the same thing and they had the baby. He is Down syndrome, he has the Holy Ghost, baptized in Jesus Name and is a joy to everyone who knows him.

I believe we must leave questions like this up to God.

If the child does not survive in the womb, doctors have procedures for removing the child, D&C. This is not abortion since the child is already deceased.

It is important that the Bible clearly shows us that the marriage relationship is normal. The desire for a married couple to enjoy their sexual relationship is normal and pure. Hebrews 13:4

Now all this brings us to the big question. Is sex outside of marriage wrong?

Yes! The sexual relationship between an opposite sex couple, is appropriate and natural **when they are married, to each other.**

Divorce: There is only one acceptable reason for divorce. That is fornication or adultery. **Matthew 5:32** But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

God hates divorce. Matt. 19:3-9, Romans 7:2-3

Separation: 1 Corinthians 7:10-11 ¹⁰ And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from *her* husband: ¹¹ But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to *her* husband: and let not the husband put away *his* wife.

If a couple cannot rectify marital problems, and if they must separate, they should remain unmarried and abstinent, or they will be guilty of adultery.

If a couple separate, once one of the couple dies, the other is free to re-marry as long as they have not broken the marriage vow by committing adultery or fornication. This is not license to "kill" your spouse.

Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1 Corinthians 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

Fornication is either sexual relationship outside of marriage or sexual relationship with someone other than your legally recognized spouse. It's wrong, it's sin, and if you remain unrepentant, you will be lost.

Hebrews 13:4 Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

When God created man, He knew it was not good for man to be alone.

The union of a "same sex couple" is not marriage; it's not sanctioned by the Bible.

*1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor **homosexual offenders** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." [\(NIV\)](#).*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Leviticus 18:22 - "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable." [\(NIV\)](#)

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

Leviticus 20:13 - "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads." [\(NIV\)](#)

Leviticus 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Romans 1:26-27 - "Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion." [\(NIV\)](#)

Romans 1:26-27 ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Hopefully, the above responses and comments answer your questions, if not, feel free to ask and I will do my best to answer.