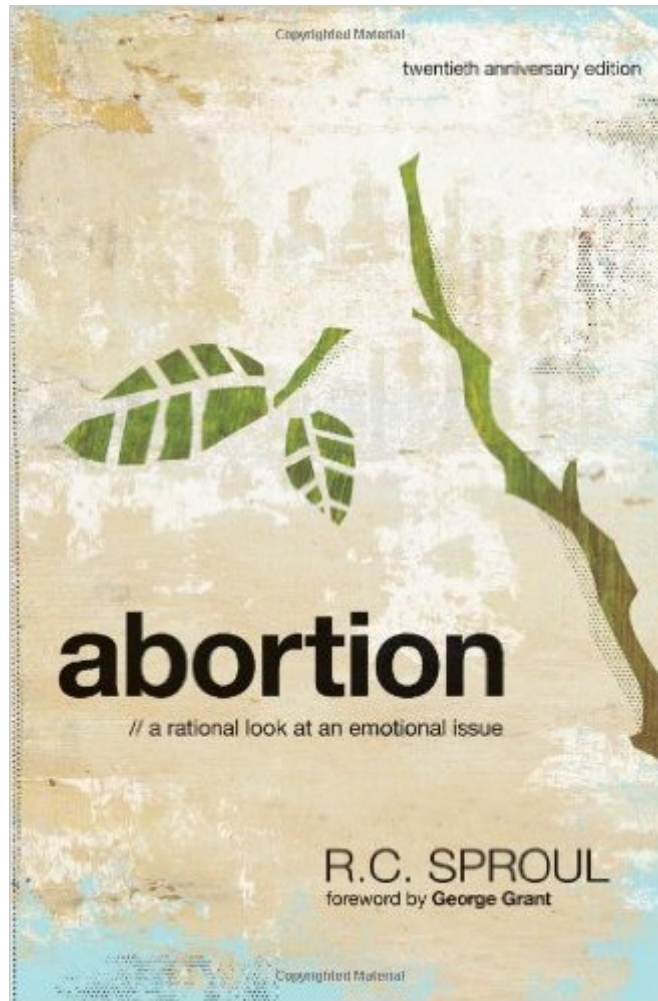


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Abortion: A Rational Look At An Emotional Issue



Synopsis

SummaryIn this book, Dr. R.C. Sproul employs his unique perspective as a highly experienced pastor-theologian and a trained philosopher to provide well-considered and compassionate answers to the difficult questions that attend termination of pregnancy. Dr. Sproul strives for a factual, well-reasoned approach informed by careful biblical scholarship. He considers both sides of this issue in terms of biblical teaching, civil law, and natural law. This edition includes a new foreword by Dr. George Grant and has been updated to reflect developments in the issue of abortion.

Appendixes provide further background on the issue of when life begins and list sources for pro-life resources.
ChaptersA Nation DividedThe Sanctity of LifeThe Sanctity of Life and Natural LawWhen Does Life Begin?What If You Are Not Sure about Abortion?The Role of Government in AbortionA Woman's Right to Her BodyThree Frequent AssertionsThe Pro-Choice PositionThe Problem of Unwanted PregnanciesIs Abortion the Unpardonable Sin?A Pro-Life StrategyResourcesAppendix A: Testimony on the Beginning of Human LifeAppendix B: Pro-Life ResourcesNotesBibliographyIndex

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Customer Reviews

R.C. Sproul is a theologian, not a sociologist or health professional. That fact is clearly stated on the outside and inside this book. So I was surprised to come across one of his books from the 1990s on this subject: "ABORTION (A Rational Look at an Emotional Issue)." Since most of R.C. Sproul's books are on Theology, Church history and matters of ethic and logic, it seemed unusual for him to write a book on a social issue like abortion. The book is divided into three parts: Part I: Abortion: The Ethical Dilemma of Our Time. Part II: An Analysis of Pro-Abortion and Pro-Choice Arguments. Part III:

A Compassionate Response and Strategy In Part I, Sproul points out how emotionally divided America is over the abortion issue, with the potential of ripping apart the social fabric of one of history's most successful nations. In doing this, he covers some of the core issues like "Is a fetus a living human person?" "When does life begin?" the sanctity of life from a biblical viewpoint, the sanctity of life in Natural Law and how abortion violates that sanctity. Sproul summarizes this as follows: "A negative prohibition against actual and potential murder implicitly involves a positive mandate to work for the protection, sustenance, and respect for the sanctity of life. To oppose murder is to promote life. Whatever else abortion does, it does not promote the life of the unborn child. Although some people will argue that abortion promotes the quality of life of those who do not desire offspring, it does not promote the life of the subject in question, the developing unborn child."

I first read this important book when it was published in 1990. Since that time I've heard Dr. Sproul mention several times that it's one of the worst-selling of his 90-plus books. It was updated in 2010, and features an extended Foreword from George Grant, who helped to update the book in light of changes over the past twenty years. In light of the recent Planned Parenthood videos, and the fact that one and a half million babies are killed every year in the United States alone, I decided to read the book again. Sproul examines the ethical implications of abortion, looking at the issue from the perspectives of biblical law, natural law, and positive judicial law. He makes it clear that while he will examine arguments from both sides of the debate, he is convinced that abortion on demand is evil. He shows that abortion is against the law of God, against the laws of nature, and against reason. He states that the book is addressed primarily to those who are not sure about the ethics of abortion. He addresses the issue in a biblical and logical manner, not using inflammatory language. Helpful summaries of the major points of each chapter and discussion questions suitable for group study are included at the end of each chapter. Sproul writes that many, if not majority, of those who oppose abortion are driven by religious convictions. He states that at the heart of the abortion issue rests one overarching question: Is abortion a form of murder? Or, to say it another way, does abortion involve the willful destruction of a living human person?

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