

Practice: Abortion And The Right To Life

Q: Explain why Roman Catholics oppose abortion.

<i>Introduce Idea</i>	<i>Scripture/ Theological Point</i>	<i>Connection with Issue</i>
Jesus taught ...	God made humans, male and female, in his image (Genesis)	Catholics, along with some other Christians, seem abortion as an act of homicide
According to Judeo-Christian teaching ...	<i>'You shall not murder'</i> (Exodus, Decalogue)	
Christians understand ...	<i>'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you ...'</i> (Call of Jeremiah)	Catholics see that a loving response to a vulnerable pregnant woman would be to help her through her pregnancy and after
The Gospels highlight ...	<i>'The Holy Spirit will come upon you ...'</i> (Luke's Gospel, Annunciation)	Although abortion is not directly condemned in scripture, the Church has always seen it as a crime like infanticide
In a Judeo-Christian perspective ...	<i>'The child in my womb leapt for joy ...'</i> (Luke's Gospel, Elizabeth, when she heard Mary's greeting)	
Church/RC Tradition commends/condemns ...	<i>Love God, and your neighbour as yourself</i> (Great Commandment in the Synoptic Gospels)	The Hippocratic oath contains a line about <i>'not giving a woman a pessary for abortion'</i>
From a Scriptural perspective ...	<i>Treat others as you have them treat you</i> (Golden Rule, Sermon on the Mount, Matthew's Gospel)	Abortion, like slavery, is an evil stemming from the withdrawal of human status from certain human beings
The Torah, Mosaic law prescribes/proscribes ...	<i>'Do not judge according to human appearances ...'</i> (John's Gospel, Jesus in discussion with the Religious Authorities)	Abortion can be seen as a type of prejudice against the most vulnerable in society
In the light of New Testament teaching ...		
From a Gospel standpoint ...		
From a Markan, Lukan, Matthean, Johannine perspective ...		

Tips


1 Introduce points properly...


- Don't start with: 'It says in the Bible that ...'; try to be more specific.
- Adapt (don't just adopt) the introductions above.
- Don't overuse the introductions; you'll make your answer look clunky.

2 Stitch the introduction nicely to the body of the point...

- This is a **badly** stitched answer:
 - 'From a Gospel standpoint 'treat others as you would have them treat you' which means you should not agree with abortion because you would not like to be ripped from the womb.'
- This is **better**:
 - 'Applying the Golden Rule of the Gospels, Roman Catholics would argue that abortion is wrong since no one would wish to suffer themselves the basic violence of abortion.'

 *introduction*

 *scripture*

 *issue*

3 Make sure that the scripture (or RC teaching) you use directly backs up the point you wish to make.

- In this case, it **doesn't**:
 - 'According to the Genesis Creation Accounts, God made humans in his image and so Catholics believe that doctors should remember the Hippocratic Oath and the bit about not giving a woman a pessary for abortion.'
- This is **better**:
 - 'According to the Genesis Creation Accounts, God made humans in his image, and so every person, whether in the earliest or last stages of their life, is to be equally respected. Catholics think that abortion is treating unborn human life without any respect.'

4 Pay attention to the question – it's asking why Roman Catholics oppose abortion. It is not asking for your opinion about this issue.

Now try to formulate an answer to this question, using the tips as guidelines, not as hard and fast rules.