

ABORTION

May 2001

Abortion, in common use, refers to an artificially produced premature expulsion of the fetus, resulting in a miscarriage of an unwanted pregnancy.

- A. As members of CMDS:
 - 1. We believe we are accountable to God as Creator, in accordance with the authority of the Holy Scriptures,
 - 2. We believe the fetus, from the time of conception, is a human being created in the image of God, and therefore has immeasurable value.
 - 3. We believe both Scripture and medical tradition emphasize the nurturing, preserving and holding in reverence of all human life.
 - 4. We believe we are responsible to uphold the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to place the issue of abortion in that context.

- B. Therefore, the position of CMDS is that:
 - 1. Human life in all stages of development is sacred. It is dishonourable in the eyes of God to end that life for any purpose other than for saving the life of the mother.
 - 2. It is our responsibility to seek constantly to provide the pregnant woman with the support and nurture she requires throughout her pregnancy, especially in difficult cases such as rape, incest or a deformed fetus.
 - 3. It is our responsibility to continue our support and nurture of mother and child after birth.
 - 4. We should be forgiving and accepting both toward the woman who has had an abortion and those who performed the abortion. We should help them find the same forgiveness and healing which we ourselves receive daily through Jesus Christ.
 - 5. If performing an abortion contravenes a person's convictions, we support the position of persons within the health care system who abstain from direct or indirect participation in the abortion process.