



From Unthinkable To Debatable

Infanticide Is Now

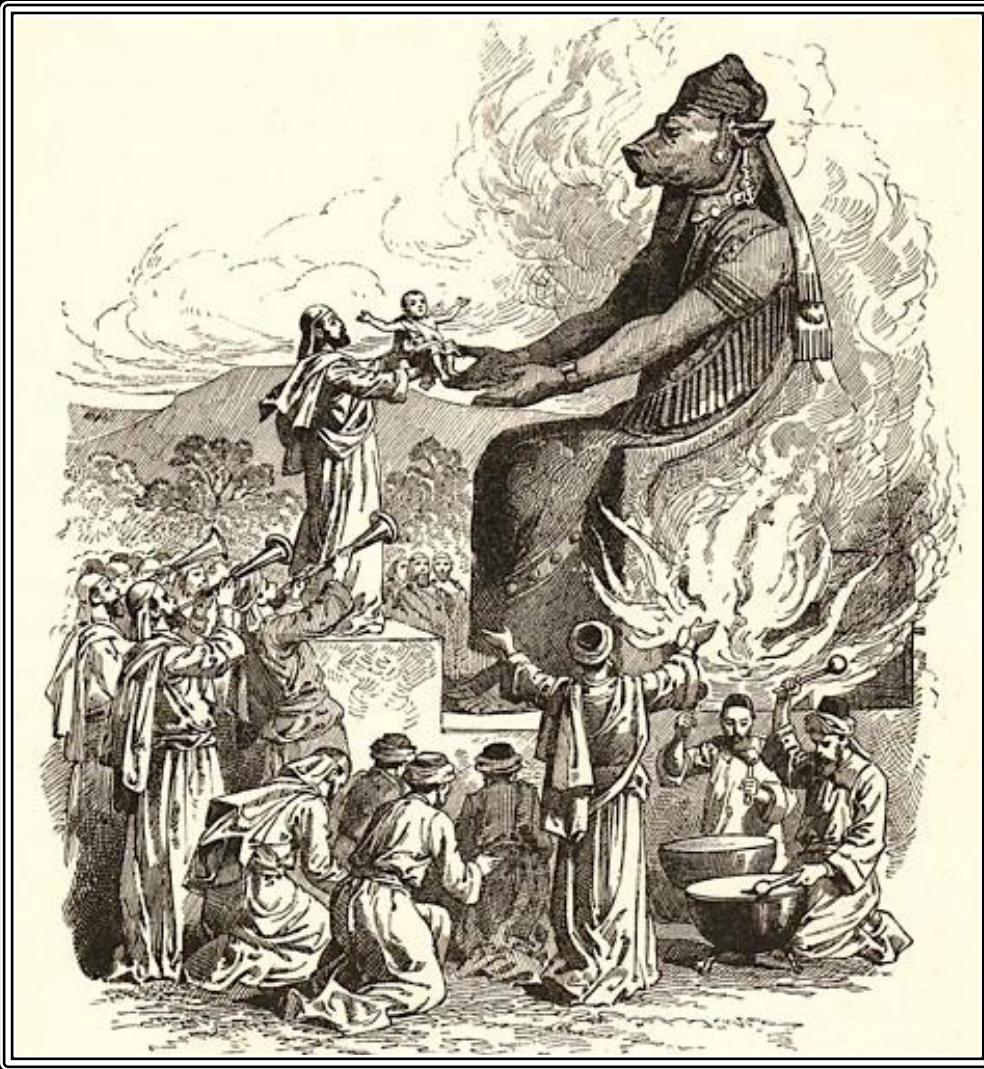
- "Thousands of medical ethicists and bioethicists, as they are called, professionally guide the unthinkable on its passage through the debatable on the way to becoming the justifiable until it is finally established as unexceptionable."
- "A quality-of-life ethic requires us to focus on a neonate's current and future quality of life as relevant decision making criteria. We would ask questions such as: Does this baby have the capacity for development to an extent that will allow him or her to have a life and not merely be alive? If we reach the conclusion that it would not, we would have reason to conclude that his life is not worth living."



Infanticide Is Now

The United States has an infant homicide rate that ranks 11th in the world for babies less than one year old, and is 1st in the world for babies between one and four years old. Many factors contribute to this, including economic hardships, unstable family situations, emotional or psychological problems, and assumed suffering of the baby. Our main focus in this lesson will be on the ethical/philosophical arguments in support of institutionally-endorsed infanticide.

Infanticide & Paganism



- It is not a new problem (Lev. 20:2-5, Jer. 32:35, 1 Kings 11:4-11).
- Infanticide was frequently practiced in Rome and Greece in cases of unwanted or “deformed” babies (broadly defined, of course).



So What Has Changed?


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- Peter Singer once wrote, "We can no longer base our ethics on the idea that human beings are a special form of creation, made in the image of God, singled out from all other animals, and alone possessing an immortal soul" (Evangelical Ethics, JJ Davis, p. 144).
- In 1979 he wrote, "Human babies are not born self-aware, or capable of grasping that they exist over time. They are not persons... The life of a newborn is of less value than the life of a pig, dog, or a chimpanzee" (Practical Ethics, Singer, pp. 122-123).



Sanctity of Life or Quality of Life?

Value is not determined by human achievements or measurements. It is invariably given to all humans at conception from God. We are created in His image (Genesis 1:26-28) masterfully crafted in the womb with a sense of identity before birth (Psalm 139:13-16). The words used to describe an unborn infant in both the Hebrew (*yeled* in Exodus 21:22) and Greek (*brephos* in Luke 1:41, 44) are also used in other contexts (both secular and Biblical) of born children (Acts 7:19).

A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a baby's hand being gently held by an adult's hand. The baby's hand is small and curled, while the adult's hand is larger and more open, with fingers slightly spread. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the hands.

**"How is it ethical to knowingly
let a disabled baby enter into a
life of pain and hardship?"**



Happiness

Suffering

"Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."

Philippians 3:17-21