

This presentation examines how the Sexual Revolution led to the legalization of abortion and the devaluation of the doctrine of the image of God in American Churches and society. The Sexual Revolution began in the middle of the twentieth century, and with it came a perceived need for women to control when, and if, they became pregnant in order to engage in the perceived sexual liberation of the time. The new sexual liberation led to the demand for accessible birth control and eventually legalized abortion. For the church, this is an important problem, as the Sexual Revolution, as well as legalized abortion that resulted, led to the devaluing of the doctrine of the image of God. As a result, people act toward others without recognition of the dignity and respect that is due them as God's image bearers. This presentation will begin by demonstrating that both popular opinion and the legal status of abortion in America underwent a dramatic shift in the last century, which resulted in the legalizing of abortion and its widespread acceptance among the American public. This study was done by a review of the legal history of abortion from colonial America to the present as well as a analysis of polls, which began in the last century, of public attitudes toward abortion. It will be shown that not only did the Sexual Revolution result in a shift in public opinion in favor of abortion, but it also affected the opinion of many Christians toward abortion as well. This presentation will trace the major participants and philosophical ideas that led to the Sexual Revolution in order to show how it resulted in legalized abortion, and from there, it will be explained how those ideas are in conflict with the Christian belief that all human beings are made in the image of God. Several books, which examine the philosophical influences of the major participants in the Sexual Revolution, will be referenced, especially the work of Benjamin Wiker. Several long running polls will be examined in order to understand the changing attitudes of Americans and Christians toward abortion since the Sexual Revolution. Books discussing the history of abortion and contraception

in America, as well as books discussing the legal history of abortion in America, have been examined. Finally, theological books have been consulted in order to better understand how the doctrine of the image of God has been impacted by the issue of abortion. The belief that all human beings are made in the image of God has been diminished since the beginning of the Sexual Revolution, which culminated in the legalization of abortion. As a result, it is important to understand the philosophical ideas that led to diminished belief that human beings are made in the image of God, and to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of this biblical doctrine.