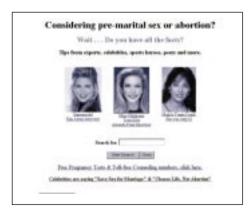
RevieWWWs

Following recent controversy, CyberDoc reviews websites on abortion and asks: is there a difference between being antiabortion and being pro-life?

(The blue web-style underlines indicate hyperlinks on CyberDoc's website.)

While some Christians do accept abortion in some circumstances, many do not. This issue will review sites on the Internet which oppose abortion. To save on your typing, this quarter's links can all be found at http://xtn.org/cyberdoc/abortion/

We cannot mention the Internet and without discussing abortion Nuremburg Files'. This website published 'hit lists' of the names of US doctors performing abortions. The story of the offending website can be explored online on a page on a 'crime' site and in CNN's archives. After a court judgment the site was disconnected by its service provider although it resurfaced briefly courtesy of a Dutch free speech advocate. The site is no longer accessible and several other sites discussed here make the point that we are not so much anti-abortion as pro-life. It would seem sensible to make this distinction in the light of the murders of some of the doctors who appeared on those lists.



Prolife.com and prolife.org should not be confused. The former lives up to its 'com' status (short for 'commercial' to Internet users) with quotes from celebrity interviews on abortion, and a strident promotion of the 'save sex' campaign.



They also link abortion with the Pill, arguing strongly for the great unspoken likelihood that contraceptive pills may produce pre-implantation abortions. I would have liked to see more references to medical literature on this page to make their argument more compelling.

The other site with its 'org' status (loosely indicating 'charity' on the web) mainly lists online web pregnancy crisis services. The <u>uk version</u> of this was not so helpful with the explanation 'under construction' and only a couple of links. The <u>Care for life</u> site was also unfortunately brief with no way of tracking down any of their crisis centres. <u>Life</u> does have a list of their centres online although you could easily miss it and it is not very well designed.



Given a medical establishment in favour of abortion, perhaps it is necessary for there to be outlets for some form of research on abortion on the Internet. One of these is called 'after-abortion.org'. Here there is an online survey of post-abortion complications and a review of the literature on this subject. CARE has also made available the full text of their 'Commission of Inquiry into Fetal

<u>Sentience</u>' which makes a strong case for babies feeling pain in the womb.



The prolife alliance website is informative, and up to date with latest news. If you would like to see the pictures of an abortion censored from their party political broadcast during the 1997 UK General Election they can be downloaded here.



I am pleased to report that if you want clear writing from a biblical perspective the Christian Medical Fellowship's collection of <u>articles on abortion</u> is by far the best starting point. These articles are simply brilliant, and provide a great source of biblical information together with UK facts and statistics. The important issue of conscientious objection being over-ridden is also handled well.

In my opinion some of the other pages about abortion on the world wide web seemed a little short on fact and high on hype.

CyberDoc is Adrian Warnock, an SHO in psychiatry on the Royal London Hospital rotation