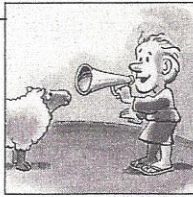


THE SUPREME COURT, ABORTION AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE



What's actually involved in the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to review the abortion issue?

The high court has recently agreed to review a 1986 Missouri law that could cause the overthrow of their historic 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision which legalized abortion. Last July a federal appeals court declared unlawful key parts of the Missouri statute, including the preamble which stated that life begins at conception. The appeals court said the state of Missouri was using an "impermissible...theory of when life begins to justify its abortion regulations."

The Missouri law, pushed through by Christians and other pro-lifers in the legislature and signed by Missouri's Christian governor, required doctors to perform tests to determine the life status of any unborn child 20 weeks or older. It also prohibited the use of public funds, employees and facilities for "performing or assisting" an abortion. It forbid "encouraging or counseling" a woman to have an abortion not necessary to save her life. All these were shot down by the appeals court.

The state of Missouri then asked the U.S. Supreme Court not only to reverse the appeals court decision, but to review its own 1973 decision in the process. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed. Oral arguments will be heard in April and May with a decision expected by the end of July. With the appointment of several new, conservative justices during the Reagan administration, there is now a possibility *Roe vs. Wade* may be reversed.

Although movements such as Operation Rescue are drawing attention to the horror of mass abortion and give individual Christians an avenue of taking a stand against national evil, the battle will not be won on the curbs of America. Protests and demonstrations will not sway the U.S. Supreme Court. Their decision will be based on each justice's interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. A godly interpretation is now possible, but all the powers of hell will be thrown at the Supreme Court to block godly wisdom. While we commend the efforts of the demonstrators, the real struggle is not against "flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." By pushing back the forces of hell through prayer, fasting and personal repentance Christians can overpower Satan, freeing the angels to bring God's message to the Supreme Court.

Ministries Today calls on pastors to lead the way in spiritual warfare and to call their churches into prayer and fasting.

Jamie Buckingham