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A Weekly Devotional from the
South Green Street Church of Christ

Double Homicide?

by Steve Higginbotham

On Friday, April 19th, DNA evidence confirmed that the bodies that washed ashore in the San Francisco Bay were indeed the bodies of Laci Peterson and her unborn son. Laci, seven and one half months pregnant with a baby boy, disappeared on December 24, 2002. Immediately a thorough search and investigation began, which yielded no clues to her whereabouts until the events of this weekend.

Police have arrested Scott Peterson, Laci's husband, and have charged him with "double homicide." If found guilty, he could face the death penalty for the murder of his wife and his unborn son.

But now, to the point of this article. Double homicide? Charged with two murders? How can that be? I thought our government doesn't recognize the "life" and "rights" of a child in it's mother's womb. I thought unborn babies could be disposed of; terminated, at the will and whim of the mother?

If Scott Peterson is found to be guilty of the charges brought against him, is his only crime with respect to the death of his unborn son, a matter of location and credentials? If Scott were a doctor, and if the life of this unborn child took place in a sterile doctor's office, would his actions been right?

It seems to me that consistency demands that we can't have it both ways. We either need to drop one of the murder charges or consider abortion murder. How can it be any other way? Truth is, when we abandon the absolute standards set forth in God's Word, and instead adopt our own subjective standards, we're bound to find ourselves entangled in such inconsistencies. What do you think?