

ABORTION

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*About the author...*

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Since “Black Monday,” January 22, 1973, abortion has been protected by the U.S. constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court’s decision entitled *Roe v Wade*, along with its lesser-known companion case, *Doe v Bolton*, struck down all laws of any kind, State, Federal, or Local, that protected the lives of unborn human children. I emphasize human because it is still legal to protect unborn animals – only unborn humans are denied protection. The result was, for all practical purposes, legal abortion for any reason or no reason, throughout all three trimesters, with only the most minor restrictions being permitted in some states in the last few years. As a result, over 37 million unborn babies (approximately 1.5 million per year, 4000 per day, or one abortion every 21 seconds) have been slaughtered. Those numbers are so huge they stagger the imagination, so let’s put them into perspective:

- A. More deaths in any one-month than there were Americans killed in the entire Viet Nam War.
- B. The population of Augusta, KS, wiped out every 2 ¼ days.
- C. The entire State of Maine (1.25 million) or Nebraska (1.6 million) wiped out every year. (Kansas gets wiped out every 2 years. Has been destroyed over 13 times since *Roe v Wade*.)
- D. Total deaths since *Roe v Wade* equals the combined populations of 23 states! (Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming). (Slater).

Methods of Abortion

Abortion methods vary but include the dilation and evacuation (D & E), vacuum aspiration (suction) of the baby out of the uterus, saline (salt) poison of the baby through injection, hysterectomy (caesarian section) and prostaglandin-induced abortion which causes severe premature birth of the child. Many times these aborted fetuses are born alive and left to die of exposure. Today, aborted babies are being sold and used for all kinds of purposes. (Dodson 240).

The most recent method to come to our attention is that of partial-birth abortion. All have seen

or heard of the current Congressional debates regarding partial-birth abortion, which backers euphemistically refer to as “dilation and extraction.” As far as I know, the measures are at the point of this writing being discussed by our lawmakers in Washington. So that Christians might be informed on just exactly what is occurring in abortion-clinics, listen to late-term abortionist Martin Haskell from Dayton, Ohio, in a paper presented at a seminar sponsored by the National Abortion Federation. Robert W. Lee (*The New American*, 4-15-96, p. 4) writes that after locating the baby within the womb, Haskell goes on to describe his procedure. The

“surgeon uses his fingers to deliver the lower extremity [legs], then the torso, then the shoulders, and then the upper extremities.” With only the head remaining inside the mother, and the baby oriented “spine up,” the “surgeon then takes a pair of blunt, curved Metzenbaum scissors in the right hand. He carefully advances the tip, curved down, along the spine and under his middle finger until he feels it contact at the base of the skull under the tip of his middle finger.” He then “forces the scissors into the base of the skull. Having safely entered the skull, he spreads the scissors to enlarge the opening,” after which the scissors are removed and the surgeon inserts a “suction catheter into this hole and evacuates the skull contents [sucks out the baby’s brain]. With the catheter still in place, he applies traction to the fetus, removing it completely from the patient” (Haskell 4)

Let’s ask a few questions of Dr. Haskell and other players in this debate.

Question: Are these abortions done only for genetic reasons, such as to abort a deformed child?

Answer: “Most of my abortions are elective in the 20-24 week range...In my particular case, probably 20 percent are for genetic reasons. And the other 80 percent are purely elective.”

Question: Are not the babies either killed, or in a medicinal coma at the time of this procedure?

Answer: “No, its [the baby] not. No, it’s really not. A percentage are for various reasons. Some just because of the stress...” (Haskell during a 1993 taped interview with *American Medical News*.) “The baby’s body was moving. His little fingers were clasping together. He was kicking his feet. All the while his little head was still stuck inside. Dr. Haskell took a pair of scissors and inserted them into the back of the baby’s head. Then he opened the scissors up. Then he stuck the high-powered suction tube into the hole and sucked the baby’s brain out.” (Brenda Pratt Shafer, a registered nurse and one-time aid to Dr. Haskell).

Question: How frequently is the procedure performed?

Answer: “Frankly, I don’t think I was any good at all until I had done 3,000 or 4,000 [abortions] in later pregnancies” (James McMahon, medical director of the Eve Surgical Centers in Los Angeles, as quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* 1-7-90).

There, friends, is in part the essence of the current Congressional debates. Some of the Congressmen have responded only by refusing diagrams explaining the procedure to be shown on TV. They are afraid that if people would really learn what is occurring they would be against it. Have we advanced as a civilization past King Herod’s rule, who slaughtered the male babies of Bethlehem? (Lockwood).

When Does Human Life Begin?

The basic question that must be dealt with in this debate is: When does human life begin? If the unborn child is not a living human being, then killing (aborting) one is no different than stepping on a grasshopper; but if the unborn baby is a living human being (as I affirm), then abortion is murder!

Here we will list five basic positions regarding the question: When does human life begin?

I. **The infant becomes human at some point after birth.**

- A. Proponents of this view do not equate life with humanity – the child is living before it is human, according to them.
- B. Some of these Doctors and Philosophers have suggested that babies should be examined at birth, declared to be human if healthy/normal, if not, then killed.
- C. Dr. Peter Singer (*Pediatrics*, July 1983):

The philosophical foundations of the sanctity of life view have been knocked asunder. We can no longer base our ethics on the notion that human beings are a special form of life made in the image of God, singled out from all other animals with an immortal soul. Our better understanding of our own nature has bridged the gulf that once we thought to lie between ourselves and other species. So why should we believe that the mere fact that a being is a member of the species homo sapiens endows its life with some unique, almost infinite value? Only the fact that the defective infant is of the species homo sapiens leads us to treat it any differently from the dog or pig. The order of species, or species membership alone, should not have that kind of moral relativity.

- D. There is no Biblical basis whatsoever for this view. Its proponents are Humanists who do not believe the Bible anyway.

II. **The baby receives soul upon taking its first breath of air.**

- A. Claims Bible basis from Genesis 2:7, where God breathed the breath of life into Adam, and he became a living soul.
 - 1. If babies were formed by the same process Adam was, this would be valid.
 - 2. A child doesn't wait till birth to breathe. Oxygen is received via the mother from conception until birth.
- B. Other criteria for life make it clear that the baby is a living soul before being born, e.g. the life is in the blood (Genesis 9:4-5; Leviticus 17:11-14; Deuteronomy 12:23).
 - 1. An unborn baby has its own blood supply, independent of the mother's (may even be a different type).
 - 2. Proverbs 6:16-17, God hates hands that shed innocent blood. How He must hate the hands of abortionists!

III. **Life begins when the baby could survive outside the mother's body (viability).**

- A. This position has no claim at all for a Bible basis.
- B. This is a measure of how advanced medical technology is, not of human life!
 - 1. Babies survive today that would surely have perished thirty years ago. Are such

preemies human today, but they weren't back then?

2. If life equals ability to survive independently, then invalids are non-humans (this is why euthanasia has followed so closely on the heels of abortion)!

IV. Life begins when the baby moves (i.e. when the mother “feels” the baby move).

- A. The old term is “quickening.”
- B. No Biblical basis at all (but still held, especially by some who received medical education many years ago).
- C. This is a measure of the mother's sensitivity, not of the baby's alive-ness.
- D. Ultrasound demonstrates that the baby is moving long before mother can feel the movement.
 1. Heart begins beating at 18-25 days!
 2. A baby moves about, kicks, flexes, etc., long before being large enough that the mother can feel the kicks and pokes.

V. Life begins at conception.

- A. Psalm 51:5, David began to exist at conception; it wasn't just a blob of matter that later became David.
- B. All that is added after conception is nourishment and oxygen.
- C. An unborn baby is simply in an early stage of development, but is still a living human being! (Toddlers are not adults, but we agree that they are living human beings; they are in an earlier stage of development than we adults are.)
- D. A fertilized ovum is genetically identifiable as human, and is unique (today you have the same genetic code you had when you were one cell; no one else has ever had the same genetic code you have; no one will ever have it again.) (Slater, pages 1-3).

When the 23 chromosomes of the male sperm unite with the 23 chromosomes of the female egg at conception, a new being is created. After conception nothing is added to the fetus except nutrition and oxygen. The fetus is dependent on the mother for only three things: nutrition, oxygen and safety (constant temperature, etc.). After birth, the baby remains dependent on someone for nutrition and safety. Many newborns do not require external breathing assistance. However, as we learn more about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, it is becoming evident that there are many children who do require, at times, assistance in breathing.

Everything that determines the physical characteristics of a child is determined at conception. Hair color, sex, eye color, height, skin tone, and mental ability are determined at conception. Even at two months old and only one inch long, the child has a complete set of working organs, heartbeat, and even brain waves. The embryo is but a miniature infant. (Dodson 240)

Prior to the 1973 Supreme Court decision, the conclusion of the medical group of the First International Conference on Abortion, 1967, held as follows:

The majority of our group (19 to 1) could find no point in time between the union of sperm and egg, or at least the blastocyst stage (the last part of fertilization where twinning occurs), and the birth of an infant at which point we could say that this was not human life. The changes occurring between implantation, a six-weeks embryo, a six

months fetus, a one week-old child, or a mature adult are merely stages of development and maturation. (Dodson 241)

The Biblical Standpoint

From the Biblical standpoint, abortion is murder! It is the killing of an individual, not the elimination of a part of the mother's body. Biblical principles clearly manifest that abortion is the taking of the life of unborn children. This is so because of the biblical implication that life begins at conception.

- A. Notice, under the Old Testament, God's severe penalty on even accidental abortion.

If any man strive and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet not mischief follows: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life. (Exodus 21:22,23)

- B. Conception is given by God. *"and the Lord gave her [Ruth] conception, and she bare a son"* (Ruth 4:13). The Lord *"opened her [Leah's] womb; but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived and bare a son"* (Genesis 29:31-32). Note also that *"the Lord had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech"* (Genesis 20:18).
- C. God causes the fetus to develop. Job asked, *"Did not he that made me in the womb make him? And did he not fashion us in the womb?"* (Job 31:15). *"Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh...with bone and sinew"* (Job 10:11). *"For thou didst form my inward parts: thou didst cover me in my mother's womb"* (Psalm 139:13). *"Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee...I sanctified thee, and ordained thee..."* (Jeremiah 1:5).
- D. One receives his spirit at conception; else how could Job have implored, *"Why died I not from the womb? Why did I not give up the ghost [spirit- MPW] when I came out of the belly?"* (Job 3:11). See also Psalm 51:5, which affirms that life begins at conception. Zechariah 12:1 states, *"...and formeth the spirit of man within him."*
- E. The unborn is a human being. John, the unborn babe, *"leaped in her [Elizabeth's - MPW] womb"* when she heard Mary's salutation; he leaped for joy (Luke 1:40-41). What a powerful proof that human life begins at conception! Note also that "brephos," translated "babe" here used is also used for an infant: *"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger"* (Luke 2:12; cf. 2 Timothy 3:15). Thayer says for "brephos" "an unborn child, embryo, fetus; a newborn child, an infant, a babe." Paul was "separated" by God for service to Him while still a fetus (Galatians 1:15). Question: What if Elizabeth, Mary, and Paul's mothers had aborted them? Would that have been immoral? (Cates 80-81).

From the Biblical standpoint, abortion is murder. It is the killing of an individual, not the elimination of a part of the mother's body.

What Can We Do?

Realizing that life begins at conception, what can Christians do about abortion?

- A. Pray
 - 1. Pray for our government officials (1 Timothy 2:1-3).
 - a. Before you complain, pray!
 - b. Proverbs 14:34, *"Righteousness exalts a nation...."*
 - c. Proverbs 29:2, *"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice...."*
 - 2. Pray for women with difficult pregnancies.
 - a. Most aborting moms are panicked, uninformed, desperate (may be pressured by husband/boyfriend, parents, peers).
 - b. Try to redeem, not condemn (John 8).
 - 3. Pray for abortionists (Matthew 5:44, compare with Luke 23:34).
- B. Vote
 - 1. One way of being salt and light (Matthew 5:13ff).
 - 2. You are a Christian everywhere you go, including the voting booth.
 - 3. This is not a corruption of religion with politics (or vice-versa).
 - a. Certainly the battle is ultimately won or lost by persuading people, not by passing laws – but;
 - b. God ordained civil government to administer justice (Romans 13:1-8); the majority of folks will not respond positively to God's word, but civil government exists to restrain those who would practice wickedness.
- C. Teach
 - 1. Teach (and practice) Biblical sexual morality.
 - a. Namely, that all sexual relations outside of marriage are wrong!
 - b. Prevention via purity (contrast to the world's teaching of prevention via safe/protected sex. Their prevention often fails and there is no such thing as safe or responsible fornication!
 - 2. Teach Biblical view of human life.
 - a. Genesis 1:27, that man is made in God's image.
 - b. Genesis 9:5-6, that life is sacred.
 - c. Abortion is logical consequence of theory of evolution.
 - 3. Teach the facts about abortion.
 - a. You would be surprised to know how many people think it is illegal to teach the facts about abortion.
 - b. Be assured the other side is busy teaching its lies and distortions.
 - 4. Teach the plan of salvation.
 - a. Unless we do this, we are just treating the symptoms. We must change people's hearts, not just their outward behavior.
 - b. Illustration: We treat the symptoms of a disease (e.g. fever, pain), but we must also treat the cause, or else the other is in vain. (Slater 3,4).

Conclusion

They continue to “*shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols...*” (Psalm 106:38). Make those idols lust, greed, and convenience, and you have the Holy Spirit’s indictment of our modern society.

It is tremendously sad that the evil of abortion exists. Who is willing to affirm, “*The baby is not a human life?*” Who? If it is a human life (one that is obviously innocent), then how can one conscientiously kill the child?

Saddest of all is that we have a society that does not care. In 27 years, we have not been able to pass a Human Life Amendment or get a Supreme Court who will overturn the horrendous Roe v Wade decision. How long can God allow the innocent blood of this nation to be shed without rendering judgment against us?

In this election year we need to let the world know where we stand on the question of shedding innocent blood. Let’s urge people to vote their consciences, and get this sad chapter in our nation’s history behind us! If not us – WHO? If not now – WHEN?

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