





Some Background

- In the 1960's, abortion was considered a misdemeanor crime if it was performed prior to 'quickening' (when the mother perceives the baby is present via the child's motion in her uterus). After quickening, abortion was considered a capital offense
- Finkbine baby case: Sherri Finkbine (known as Miss Sherri on the Arizona edition of Romper Room) accidentally took medicine that she believed deformed her child. Could not obtain an abortion in Arizona so she flew to Sweden and aborted the child
- Griswold vs. Connecticut: landmark case where the Supreme court ruled that the Constitution protected a right to privacy



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Some Background

- **Roe vs. Wade:** Norma McCorvey became pregnant out of wedlock and wanted to abort her baby. Her lawyers told her to lie and say she had been raped, but the lie failed when no evidence could be brought forward. The defense then switched to a right to privacy. Court ruled 7-2 in favor of Roe. Established 'trimester' timetable. Said that states couldn't restrict abortion in first two trimesters. Couldn't restrict in last trimester unless mother's health was in jeopardy
- **Doe vs. Bolton:** broadened meaning of a mother's "health" to include social, economic, and emotional well being



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Some Background

- **Danforth vs. Planned Parenthood:** Supreme Court established that a woman does not need parental or father's consent to abort
- **Beal vs. Doe:** Established that states do not have to pay for abortions except therapeutic ones
- **City of Akron vs. Akron Center for Reproductive Health:** struck down all Akron's criteria for abortions:
 - Abortion must be in a hospital (post 1st trimester)
 - Physician had to tell woman about the effects of abortion
 - 24 hour waiting period
 - Parental consent
 - Humane disposal of the fetus



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Some Background

- **Webster vs. Reproductive Health:** Established:
 - State employees could opt out of abortions
 - Therapeutic abortions not mandatory in state hospitals
 - State can test for viability to 20 weeks
 - State can outlaw after viability
 - No 'free' right to abortions
- **Hogdson vs. Minnesota:** Parental notification (not consent) upheld
- **Gonzales vs. Carhart:** Supreme Court upheld ban on partial birth abortions (2007). Had previously been signed into law by Bush in November 2003



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Key Abortion Statistics

- In 2008, approximately 1.21 million abortions took place in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.29 million in 2002, 1.31 million in 2000 and 1.36 million in 1996. From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions have occurred in the U.S. (AGI).
- In 2007, the highest number of reported legal induced abortions occurred in Florida (91,954), NYC (90,870), and Texas (80,886); the fewest occurred in Wyoming (9), South Dakota (707), and North Dakota (1,235) (CDC).
- The 2007 abortion ratios by state ranged from a low of 59 abortions per 1,000 live births in Idaho and South Dakota (Wyoming had too few abortions for reliable tabulation) to a high of 737 abortions per 1,000 live births in NYC (CDC).
- The annual number of legal induced abortions in the United States doubled between 1973 and 1979, and peaked in 1990. There was a slow but steady decline through the 1990's. The number of annual abortions decreased by 2% between 2000 and 2007, with a slight spike in 2006. (CDC)
- Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended; about 4 in 10 of these are terminated by abortion. Twenty-two percent of all U.S. pregnancies end in abortion. (AGI).



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Key Abortion Statistics

- In 2007, 84% of all abortions were performed on unmarried women (CDC).
- Women between the ages of 20-24 obtained 33% of all abortions; women between 25-29 obtained 24% (CDC).
- 50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25; women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all U.S. abortions and teenagers obtain 17% (AGI).
- In 2007, adolescents under 15 years obtained .05% of all abortions, but had the highest abortion ratio, 768 abortions for every 1,000 live births (CDC).
- 47% of women who have abortions had at least one previous abortion (AGI).
- Black women are more than 4.8 times more likely than non-Hispanic white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2.7 times as likely (AGI).
- 37% of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 28% identify themselves as Catholic (AGI).
- 88-92% of all abortions happen during the first trimester, prior to the 13th week of gestation (AGI/CDC).
- Total performed since 1973 (thru 2008) estimated to be 52 million.



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The Core Issue: Is the Fetus a Person?



"nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."
 – Fourteenth Amendment

- The core issue is: Is the fetus a person?
- If so, then his/her life is protected by U. S. Constitutional law
- If so, then his/her life is protected by the universal law of God
- If not, then the fetus could be aborted

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Definition of 'Person'?



- Biological: human organism; member of human species
- Philosophical: living being that has capacity for rational thought, emotional expression, willful direction, and moral reflection concerning themselves and world around them
- Basic inherent capacities: (1) first order capacities – immediately accessible (e.g. speak English); (2) second order capacities – ability to perform actions that are the basis for first order capacities (e.g. learn languages); inherent in the unborn

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When Does Human Life Begin?

1. Agnostic – we don't know
2. Gradualism – the fetus gradually becomes a person
3. Decisive moment – there is a point at which the fetus becomes human



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1. The fetus isn't a person and we don't know they aren't a person.
2. The fetus isn't a person and we know they aren't a person.
3. The fetus is a person and we don't know they are a person.
4. The fetus is a person and we know they are a person.

- Peter Kreeft



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Agnostic View



- The agnostic view is basically the view the Supreme Court took in Roe vs. Wade. Shouldn't entertain the question
- However this view is invalid as agnostics really do believe when life begins, which is at birth. If this wasn't believed, then they should accept the killing of a two-year old or other aged infant (some evolutionists DO feel this is OK to do).
- Further, this is a poor view because if a true position cannot be obtained, then the benefit of the doubt should be given in favor of life (the fetus).

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Gradualism View

Fetal Growth From 8 to 40 Weeks



- The gradualism view holds that a fetus gradually becomes a person.
- This view is poor as someone can't partially exist – someone can't be part of/sort of a person.

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Photo by Michael Clancy of Spina Bifida surgery on a baby at 21 weeks gestation. This surgery was performed at Vanderbilt University Medical Center by Dr. Bruner

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Decisive Moment

- Conception
- Implantation
- When brain activity begins
- When the fetus can feel pain
- When the fetus begins to look human
- Quickening
- Viability
- Birth



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Decisive Moment

- Birth – society calculates existence from birth
 - Social customs have nothing to do with someone being a person
 - Location is all that changes; the nature of the baby does not
- Viability – when the child could function independently of mother
 - Anyone can be put in a non-viable environment
 - Nature of baby is the same
- Quickening – felt by mother; proof that life exists
 - Ancient theory
 - Life can exist without a person knowing he/she exists
- When the fetus begins to look human
 - Appearance insufficient for definition of person
 - Something can still be human even if he/she doesn't look it

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Decisive Moment

- When the fetus can feel pain
 - Hurt is different than harm (involves interests)
 - Are persons asleep in surgery not human?
- When brain activity begins
 - Unborn possess capacity to produce brain
- Implantation – begins to interface with mother
 - Essence of what a thing is does not depend on other's awareness of the existence
 - Test tube babies' existence is known before implantation

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Conception

- Union of egg and sperm; the unborn is a zygote
- Time of radical break; 2 things become 1. Only time this occurs in a person's existence; fertilized egg is something new
- Zygote only needs food, water, shelter, and oxygen to survive
- Zygote is by nature a person. Not a potential person, but a person with potential
- Zygote has human parents and is therefore human



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Conception is Best Answer

- Continuum of identity – the unborn is the same self from zygote to adult
- Continuum of essential structure – the unborn possesses the same structure, but one that keeps developing
- Continuum of capacities – the unborn's second order capacities are always present



7 week old baby

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"I will neither give a deadly drug to anyone if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect. Similarly I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy."

- Part of Hippocratic Oath



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Conception

- SLED:
 - Size – the size of a person does not determine if they are a person
 - Level of development – are less developed born children not persons?
 - Environment – all persons can be put in special environments that cause dependence
 - Degree of dependency – are those who are born more dependent not persons?



7 week old baby

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"Life has a very long history but each individual has a very neat beginning, the moment of its conception. The material link is the molecular thread of DNA. In each reproductive cell this ribbon roughly one meter long is cut into 23 pieces, or chromosomes. As soon as the 23 paternally derived chromosomes are united through fertilization to the 23 maternal ones, the full genetic meeting necessary to express all the inborn qualities of the new individual is gathered, i.e., personal constitution. At two months of age the human being is less than one thumb-length from the head to the rump, he would fit at ease in a nutshell but everything is there...hands, feet, head, organs, brains. In the fourth week is consciousness. All are in place. His heart has been beating for a month already and fingerprints can be detected. His heart is beating at two months at 150 to 170 beats a minute. To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human being has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion."

- Dr. Jerome Lejeune

Professor of fundamental genetics, Paris Descartes University



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1. The fetus isn't a person and we don't know they aren't a person. The fetus should receive the benefit of the doubt.
2. The fetus isn't a person and we know they aren't a person. The medical, scientific, and philosophical evidence points away from this road.
3. The fetus is a person and we don't know they are a person. In this case, killing the fetus is manslaughter.
4. The fetus is a person and we know they are a person.

- Peter Kreeft



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Bottom Line: The Fetus is a Person and We Know it



Japan has been very aggressive in the abortion field for a number of years. There is severe trauma on the part of Japanese women because there have been millions and millions of abortions that have occurred there. The women have been traumatized by these abortions in terms of their own emotional life, and so the Buddhists have erected temples for the expressed purpose of dealing with the issue of abortion. These are temples which memorialize what are called, "water babies"; this is a term for an aborted child, a water baby, those who perish by abortion.

In order to secure peace for their departed baby's souls, the women's conscience drives them these places and the Buddhists have erected temples where the departed souls of water babies can be attended to by penitent mothers for somewhere between \$340 and \$640. A grieving mother can purchase a small stone Buddha, which feeds the business enterprise and is supposed to relieve some of the anxiety and do something for the departed soul of the baby. The grounds have become a commercial attraction where visitors pay to come and take pictures of women who are there agonizing over their departed water babies. Priests will offer prayers at that place for water babies at \$120 per baby and \$40 for each additional baby that you've had aborted.

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"It is hard to see why people should object to a world in which babies are cut out of their mother's wombs with daggers, but not one in which mothers invite daggers into their wombs so that their babies may be cut out."
-J. Budziszewski



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What does the Bible say concerning the sanctity of human life (born and unborn) and what has been the historical position of the Church?

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Does the Bible View the Unborn as Persons?

"If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child [literally 'pregnant one'] so that she gives birth prematurely [literally 'her children come out'], yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." (Exodus 21:22-25)

Same punishment defined as:

"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man." (Genesis 9:6)

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Does the Bible View the Unborn as Persons?

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." (Luke 1:41)

"For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy." (Luke 1:44)

"This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger." (Luke 2:16)

Same Word

βρέφος, οὐς, τό

- ① a child that is still unborn, fetus, Lk 1:41, 44.
- ② a very small child, baby, infant

Amdt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature (3rd ed.)
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Who is the Creator of the Unborn?

"Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture." (Psalm 100:3)

"Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, "I, the Lord, am the maker of all things" (Isaiah 44:24)

"Did not He who made me in the womb make him, And the same one fashion us in the womb?" (Job 31:15)

"You send forth Your Spirit, they are created" (Psalm 104:30)

"For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You. When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them." (Psalm 139:13-16)

The unborn belong to God and are not the mother's 'property'...

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Does God Have Plans for the Unborn?

"Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The Lord called Me from the womb; From the body of My mother He named Me." (Isaiah 49:1)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb." (Luke 1:15)

"But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb. . ." (Galatians 1:15)

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What about Rape or Deformity or Eugenics?

"Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin." (Deuteronomy 24:16)

"The Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?" (Exodus 4:11)

"Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker—An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?' Or the thing you are making say, 'He has no hands?' "Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to a woman, 'To what are you giving birth?' " Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands." (Isaiah 45:9-11)

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What about if the Life of the Mother is at Risk?

First, "life" of the mother and "health" of the mother are two different things, with the latter being grossly redefined by the secular culture to include almost anything.

"We recognize that what this dilemma really entails is a conscious choice between two equally precious lives. Two people are in the water and there's only one seat left on the lifeboat. Who should get it? If the baby lives, the mother dies, and vice versa. Perhaps both will die if no one intervenes. Is it right to sacrifice the woman – a woman who may be someone else's mother, wife or daughter – in order to save the child? What kind of secondary factors and circumstances should guide us making this terrible choice? Obviously there is no easy solution. Either option carries painful and regrettable ramifications for everyone concerned."

- Focus on the Family

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What about Forgiveness?

"I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake,
And I will not remember your sins." (Isaiah 43:25)

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our
trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7)

"I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He
considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a
blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy
because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more
than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus."
(1 Timothy 1:12-14)

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Contrast with Pagan Practices



"Deformed infants shall be killed." – Cicero (106-43 B.C.)

"We drown children who at birth are weakly and abnormal" – Seneca (A.D. 65)

A woman should submit to abortion so the state does not become too populous. – Plato

"[There is] a limit fixed to the procreation of offspring. . . . Abortion must be practiced." - Aristotle

"In ancient Greece it was rare for even a wealthy family to raise more than one daughter. An inscription at Delphi reveals that one second-century sample of six hundred families had only one percent who raised two daughters." – How Christianity Changed the World

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How does the Bible View Children?



"Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a
reward." (Psalm 127:3)

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How do Some Evolutionists/Atheists View Children?

"A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy."
-Ingrid Newkirk
Head of PETA



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How do Some Evolutionists/Atheists View Children?

"Women are not equal to men unless they are rid of child bearing responsibilities. Women must have abortion as a backup to contraceptive failure. Contraception first, and if it doesn't work, then abortion because we can't be bothering with children. We've got to go to work and make our way in a man's world."

- Betty Freidan
Early leader of feminist movement



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How do Some in Planned Parenthood View Children?

"Abortion as treatment for unwanted pregnancy, the second sexually transmitted disease."

-Dr. William Cates
Paper written for Planned Parenthood



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The Early Church & the Sanctity of Life

"[The Old Testament] forbids women from either to cause abortion or to make away with the fetus. . . . [A woman who aborts her child] destroys a soul and diminishes the race." - Josephus

"Thou shalt not kill a child by abortion, neither shalt thou slay it when born." - The Didache, 2:2

"We may not destroy even the *foetus* in the womb. Nor does it matter whether you take away the life that is born or destroy one that is coming to birth." - Tertullian

"The unborn child. . . . though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being And should not be robbed of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy." - John Calvin

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"The value and sanctity of infant life broadly distinguished Christian from Pagan societies. . . . The intrinsic worth of each individual man and woman as a child of God and an immortal soul was introduced by Christianity." - W. E. H. Lecky



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Conclusion: Abortion is Murder and a Sign of a Fallen Culture



Bas relief decorating the temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, dated circa 1150, depicting a demon performing an abortion upon a woman by pounding a mallet into her belly

"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44)

"For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil" (1 John 3:11-12)

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Abortion Brings Consequences on the Land the Permits it



"You shall not pollute the land in which you are; for blood pollutes the land and no expiation can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it."
(Numbers 35:33)

"The phrase 'pro choice' means without conscience, or without inhibition, or without restraint. And it parades itself under the Jeffersonian banner of liberty of conscience and separation of church and state. As a rhetorical gesture, perfectly designed to function as a political banner, this phrase constitutes the last word, the official formulation of official apostate defiance against the God of Christianity. I'm confident that God will answer it apocalyptically." — Dr. John Pilke, Master's College

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Abortion Brings Consequences on the Land the Permits it



"There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him . . . hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil . . ." (Proverbs 6:16–19)

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Pray for our Leader's Change of Heart



"But if they [his daughters] make a mistake, I don't want them punished with a baby."
-Barack Obama
<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/080329.bb.01.html>

"There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood" (Proverbs 6:16–17)

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Got Ethics?

Abortion -
Choice or Murder?
