

## ABORTION - A MODERN DILEMMA

Definition: (Webster): "expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is sufficiently developed to survive."

"to end a pregnancy prematurely."

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Our forefathers saw man as made in the image of God; the last generation saw him as a higher animal; the present sees man as a highly sophisticated miniaturized computer.
2. Abortion causes social convulsions. The new liberal laws and recent Supreme Court decisions have cost more lives in one year in America than the toll of all wars in American history. Federal tax money is financing abortion without the consent of taxpayers.
3. The Supreme Court decision of 1973 ruled that a woman's right to privacy was broad enough to permit her to have an abortion without the permission of her husband. And, in the case of a minor child, without the permission or knowledge of her parents. Presumably, a teenage boy can now get a vasectomy without the approval of his parents.
4. There has been a sudden change in the American legal code in this matter. In 1964, legal, safe and easy abortion in the United States was unthinkable. By 1969, it was thinkable but nonexistent. In 1972, it was legal, subject to certain limitations, in half a dozen states; and in 1973, it was legal by Supreme Court ruling, if not easily obtainable everywhere.
5. Conception: "Is the union of the male and female reproductive cells, each of which contributes an equal amount of hereditary material to the new - 23 chromosomes each for a total of 46."

"From the moment of conception, the individual possesses all of the genetic potential for every organ and every genetically determined characteristic peculiar to that particular person. From that time on, the individual needs only the incubation and nourishment by the mother in order to develop into a full-term, newborn baby."

"In terms of its genetic structure and its biological potential, the fertilized ovum is as much a human being as a newborn baby."

"After conception, the original cell multiplies rapidly by geometric progression where each daughter cell produced has exact genetic identity with the original fertilized ovum."

6. So Human Life Is A Continuum:

Conception:	Human life begins
18-25 Days:	Heart begins to beat
6 Weeks:	Baby begins to move; brain waves are present and can be recorded on an electroencephalogram
7 Weeks:	If baby's lip is tickled, he will pull away
8 Weeks:	Grabs, swims freely
10 Weeks:	The baby is so well formed he even has fingerprints
12 Weeks:	Breathes (fluid), sucks thumb, swallows, tastes, cries, sleeps and wakes, all organ systems function, including mental
Beyond 12:	Nothing new is formed, the baby grows rapidly
Birth:	Exits from the womb; breathes air; takes his food by mouth

CRUX: At what age would you draw the line and say that a person was not human?

I. BASIS UPON WHICH ABORTIONS ARE PERFORMED.

1. Forcastive - in view of medically detected pro-ilities of physical or mental deformity.
2. Altruistic - when pregnancy results from rape or incest.
3. Psychiatric - when maternal mental health is threatened.
4. Demographic - in view of poverty or overpopulation.
5. Personal - when the mother exercises her legal rights over her own body and privacy.

II. THERE ARE FIVE BASIC TYPES OR METHODS OF ABORTION.

1. Suction Method - The cervix is stretched open and a hollow plastic tube with a knife-like tip is inserted. The baby is cut apart and a powerful suction is used to suck the scraps into a bottle/jar.

2. D & C Method - The doctor inserts a loop-shaped steel knife into the uterus, and the baby is cut apart and removed piece by piece. Because of the danger of infection, care is used to make sure that all of the baby's body parts have been removed. Sometimes a nurse is asked to re-assemble the body and check for missing parts.
3. Prostaglandin Method - The chemical, called Prostin F2 Alpha, when it works, will produce labor and delivery at any stage of pregnancy.
4. Salt Poisoning Method - Normally used after 16 weeks old. A large needle is inserted through the mother's abdominal wall into the baby's amniotic sac. A concentrated salt solution is injected into this fluid. The baby swallows it, is poisoned, struggles, and dies - sometimes a horrible death. The following day the mother delivers a dead baby. Sometimes called "candy apple babies" because of their bright red color, a condition caused by the caustic salt solution which literally burns away the entire outer layer of the child's skin.
5. Hysterectomy or Caesarian Section - An opening is made in the abdominal wall and the baby is removed. The baby and placenta are discarded. Babies aborted by this method are almost always alive.

### **III. ENGLISH COMMON LAW TOGETHER WITH AMERICAN COURTS HOLD THE FETUS A PERSON WITH LEGAL RIGHTS.**

1. It may be vouched in a recovery.
2. It may be an executor named in a will - though unborn.
3. It may be entitled under a charge for raising portions.
4. It may have an injunction.
5. It may have a guardian.
6. Legal writers have maintained that the unborn child in the path of an automobile is as much a person in the street as the mother.

Question: Does such a child become less a person, when, instead of an automobile, a physician's forceps, curettage or suction machine is directed to its destruction?

#### IV. WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?

1. At conception.
2. When life or "quickening" is felt by the mother.
3. When the fetus could survive outside the mother's womb - about seven months.
4. At birth.
5. Some time after birth.
  - A. The Roman Catholic Church affirms life at conception.
    - (1) Have steadfastly opposed abortion.
  - B. Judaism affirms that life begins at birth with first breath of outside air.
    - (1) This is the classical position of the Talmud.
  - C. Protestant Churches have historically believed that life began at conception, but today there is no consensus.

#### V. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT LIFE EXISTS BEFORE BIRTH.

1. Genesis 25:21-24 - "Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. But the children struggled together within her; and she said, If all is well, why am I this way? So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, two peoples shall be separated from your body; one people will be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger. So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.'
2. Exodus 21:22-23 - "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no lasting harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life."

- A. If the child is born prematurely and both the child and the woman are safe - then judgment is meted out.
  - B. But if either the woman or the child or both die - then there shall be life for life.
    - (1) This passage shows that the unborn child had life.
    - (2) It equally shows that the basic premise of the Law of Moses was "life for life."
3. Job 3:3,11,13-16 - "May the day perish on which I was born, and the night in which it was said, 'A male child is conceived.' .... Why died I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb? For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep: then I would have been at rest, with kings and counselors of the earth, who built ruins for themselves...Or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver; or why was I not hidden like a stillborn child, like infants who never saw light?"
- A. Job considered a person at conception.
  - B. He suggested his life should have been taken at birth.
  - C. He affirms that he would thus already be resting with the rest of the dead.
4. Psalms 139:13-17 - "For You have formed my inward parts; you have covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thou knowest me through and through; my body is no mystery to thee, how I was secretly kneaded into shape and patterned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"
- A. David recognized that it was by the power of God that his body was fashioned. That God fully knew every facet of it and was keeping a record.
  - B. If this was true of David in the womb, why not every other fetus?

5. Ecclesiastes 11:5 - "As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes all things."
  - A. This passage shows categorically life in the womb.
  
6. Luke 1:39-44 - "Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.'"
  - A. This passage teaches that John the Baptist was alive in his mother, Elizabeth's womb.
  - B. That the Holy Spirit had revealed to Elizabeth that Mary was carrying the developing body of our precious Lord.
    - (1) Would anyone be so brave or cruel to affirm that either Elizabeth or Mary be a part of an abortion.
  
7. The Bible upholds the dignity and sanctity of the human body.
  - A. Listen to C. S. Lewis:
 

"Christianity is almost the only one of the great religions which thoroughly approves of the body - which believes that matter is good, that God Himself once took on a human body, that some kind of body is going to be given to us even in Heaven and is going to be an essential part of our happiness, our beauty, and our energy. Christianity has glorified marriage more than any other religion; and nearly all of the greatest love poetry in the world has been produced by Christians."

Mere Christianity
  - B. Who can know what God has in his providence for the babe in the womb?

Gal. 1:15 - The apostle Paul says that God "separated him from his mother's womb" for the great mission he had for him.

**VI. THERE ARE MANY SERIOUS QUESTIONS INVOLVED IN ABORTION:**

1. Should abortion be performed in the case of rape?
  - A. Let it be said that conception takes place several hours after climax. This gives the woman time in most all cases to get to the hospital and prevent conception.
  - B. God has so made the female reproductive system so that she rarely conceives under the trauma of a rape situation.
  - C. Less than one percent of abortions involve deformity, incest, rape, and threat to the mother's life of every million and one-half abortions each year.
2. There is a difference in contraception and abortion.
  - A. One prevents the union of the male and female cells.
  - B. The other kills that which has been conceived.
3. Most abortions come as a result of promiscuous behaviour.
  - A. The selfish way out is to abort the child.
4. A large percentage of abortions are coming from unwed mothers. Many of them are in the age bracket of 13-18.
  - A. Georgia is second in the nation in this category.
5. How much teaching has the home done on this matter?
6. How much teaching has the church done?
7. The flippant approach to marriage in our society will surely result in unwanted children and the way out will be abortion
8. All parties involved should consider the emotional traumas which are sure to come after the abortion. If not immediately, surely in most all cases in this country, later.
  - A. Some people are emotionally scarred for life - both the man and the woman.
9. Will God put back together the aborted fetus at the resurrection? And, if so, will he give it a body to inherit heaven?

10. Would it be better for a child to be born even out of wedlock and the mother give it away rather than kill the infant?
  - A. Sometimes the loving thing to do would be to give the child to someone who would love and care for it.
11. Under what circumstances could abortion be justified?
12. The Catholic Church and most others agree that if surgeons must remove a fetus in order to get to a cancerous growth to save the mother that this is morally right.
13. Once an exception to the rule is found, what other situations might be stated which would equally be morally right?

## **VII. OUR LIVES ARE A GIFT FROM GOD.**

Let us be thankful for our birth - for our life - and for the opportunities we have to enjoy God's world, our relatives, our friends -and our opportunities to serve God and others.

We were all put here for a purpose. Let us not waste our lives which are short and uncertain. Let us invest them in worthwhile endeavors, pointing our faces toward the eternal shore and to that harbor of heaven's shore and live forever.