

FIRST WEDNESDAY || Abortion

Is ENDING THE LIFE OF A HUMAN FETUS MORALLY ACCEPTABLE?

SOME FACTS ABOUT ABORTION

1. An estimated _____ abortions took place in 2017.
2. The abortion rate in 2017 was _____ abortions per 1,000 live births.
3. Between 20%-22% of all pregnancies end in abortion.
4. Just over _____ million babies have lost their lives to abortion since Roe v. Wade.
5. In 2014, _____ of aborting women identified themselves as Protestant and _____ identified themselves as Catholic.

In 2004, the Guttmacher Institute anonymously surveyed 1,209 post-abortive women from nine different abortion clinics across the country.

1. _____ % - Not ready for a child
2. _____ % - Can't afford a baby
3. _____ % - Done having children
10. < _____ % - Victim of rape

WHEN IS A PERSON A PERSON?

S.L.E.D. - STEPHEN SCHWARZ, *THE MORAL QUESTION OF ABORTION*

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FETUS AND A HUMAN

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1. The unborn is clearly smaller than a born human.
 2. It's hard to reason how a difference in size, though, disqualifies someone from being a person.
 3. Can we kill a four year-old (who is smaller than a fourteen year-old) because she's not as big as the teenager?
 4. In the same way, the unborn is smaller than a four year-old.
 5. A human being's value is not based on their size.
 6. If we can't kill the four-year old because she's smaller, then we can't kill the unborn simply because she's smaller.

OF DEVELOPMENT

1. A human being's value is not based on their size.
2. If we can't kill the four-year old because she's smaller, then we can't kill the unborn simply because she's smaller.
3. Still, that doesn't disqualify her from personhood. She is still as equally valuable as a child-bearing teen.
4. In the same way, the unborn is also less developed than the four year-old.
5. We can't disqualify her from personhood for the same reason we can't disqualify the four year-old.
6. Both are merely less developed than older human beings.



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1. The unborn is located in a different environment than a born human.
 2. How does your location, though, affect your value? Can changing your environment alter your status as a person?
 3. Where you are has no bearing on who you are.
 4. If changing your environment can't change your fundamental status, then being inside or outside a uterus can't be relevant either.
 5. How could a 7-inch journey through the birth canal magically transform a value-less human into a valuable person?
 6. Nothing has changed except their location.
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1. The unborn is dependent upon the mother's body for nutrition and a proper environment.
2. Yet, newborns and toddlers still depend upon their parents to provide nutrition and a safe environment.
3. Can a mother kill her newborn son because he depends on her body for nutrition?
4. Can we rightfully terminate those with dementia who cannot care for themselves and rely completely on others to meet their basic needs?
5. If viability (the ability to survive or live successfully) makes us human, then all those who depend on medication or caregivers are not viable and may be killed.
6. Viability outside the womb cannot determine value?

OBJECTIONS TO PRO-LIFE ARGUMENTS

1. *"A woman has a fundamental right to her body that trumps the right of the unborn, even if it is human."*
 - a. If the fetus is her body, can a woman take medication to ease her symptoms if it will deform the fetus?
 - b. Why is it ok for the mother to kill her unborn child but not harm her unborn child through the use of a drug, especially if it's "her body"?
2. *"It's above my paygrade to determine when life begins."*
 - a. If that's the case, then we shouldn't kill the unborn because we may in fact be killing a human being.
 - b. As responsible people, we error on the side of caution when we don't have a definitive answer.
3. *"Even if you're right, we can't end abortions but we can work to reduce them."*
 - a. What if we said the same thing about slavery in the 1800's. We can't outlaw slavery so we're just going to deal with the economical need for slavery without banning it.
 - b. If we try to limit the amount of abortions while still making it perfectly legal to kill the unborn, we're saying the same thing.



- c. If abortion is morally ok, then why even try to reduce them? Why should there be fewer abortions?
4. *"What about the instance of rape? Should a mother be forced to keep a child conceived from rape?"*
- a. Before we have this conversation, will you agree that abortion should only be allowed when rape is involved and for no other reason? Then we can talk about rape.
 - b. You can't come up with one except and then make it the rule in all cases.
 - c. Applying this line of reasoning to the issue of killing another person, it would be like saying, "because we can justify certain instances of killing (i.e. self-defense), we should allow all instances of killing." This is absurd.

Questions To Ask with Regard to Rape

- 1. Should we kill another human being because we have been victimized?
 - 2. Should we kill an unborn baby because once born, he or she may remind the mother of her attacker?
 - 3. Should we kill another human being because he or she isn't wanted?
5. *"This is a personal conviction and you can't impose your personal conviction on someone else."*
- a. What if we changed the issue to spousal abuse, would you say that's your own personal view?
 - b. If someone has a personal view that allows them to harm their spouse or even their pet, should we not pass laws against those things?

TO PUT IT PLAINLY

- 1. If the unborn fetus is a human, then killing them simply because they are an inconvenience is a serious moral wrong.
- 2. If the unborn fetus is a human, then their right to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' should be granted and protected just as much as yours and mine.