

Intro:

Statistics

One out of four children conceived is surgically aborted, with an unknown but growing number of chemical abortions.[5]

1.21 million abortions in the US in 2008

Approximately 60 million abortions since 1973.

According to analysis from the CDC and the Guttmacher institute

25% of our population since 1973.

Thankfully, the numbers have been in decline and the most recent year was the lowest since 1973.

Clearly abortion is a significant issue for us to discuss.

If the pro-life position is correct, we're talking about 50 million lives taken unjustly.

If the pro-choice position is correct, changing abortion policies would rob women of a fundamental right.

Abortion is an emotionally charged issue and must be handled with sensitivity.

I will attempt to provide Biblical, scientific, and logical input on this issue to, hopefully, convince you of the sanctity of human life and the need to protect it in its earliest stage and equip you to compassionately defend this position to others.

1. What does the Bible say about abortion?

- a. Human life is sacred because man is made in God's ***image***. (Genesis 1:26-27, 9:5-6)
- b. We are not to unjustly take a human ***life***. (Ex. 20:13)
 - i. You shall not murder – questions about capital punishment, war, self-defense – that's why I say "unjustly" – then we can discuss later whether it is allowed in those situations.
 - ii. So the key question is, is the unborn a life?
 - iii. Related, when does life begin?
- c. Life begins at ***conception***.
 - i. **Psalm 139:13-16** ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶ 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.
 - ii. **Luke 1:41-44** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "And how has it *happened* to

me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? ⁴⁴ "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

1. The greek word for baby here is the same word used of a baby after it is born – Jesus is called a baby lying in a manger – Luke 2:16
- iii. Not just *any* life but *human* life – the genetic properties are uniquely human from the first combination of DNA at conception. Before arms, legs, and cognitive thought form – the life could be identified as uniquely human by a scientist.
- d. OT **criminal** law recognized the personhood of unborn children.
 - i. **Exodus 21:22-25** "If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, 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*. ²³ "But if there is *any further* injury, then you shall appoint *as a penalty* life for life, ²⁴ eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵ burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

2. **Medical** evidence confirms that life begins at conception, not birth.

Dr. Alfred M. Bongioanni, professor of obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania, stated, "I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception...human life is present throughout this entire sequence from conception to adulthood... any interruption at any point throughout this time constitutes a termination of human life."

- a. An unborn baby's **DNA** is distinct from his or her mother's DNA from conception.
 - i. A single thread of DNA from a human cell contains information equivalent to a library of one thousand volumes. (Alcorn)
 - ii. At fertilization the sperm and egg fuse to form a zygote with a unique genetic code
- b. The **development** of an unborn baby is rapid and profound.

Day 9	Sex can be determined
Day 18	Heart is forming
Day 20	Beginning of brain, spinal cord, nervous system
Day 24	Heart begins to beat
Day 30	Blood flows in the veins and is separate from the mother's blood supply
Day 35	Mouth, ears, and nose are taking shape
Day 42	Skeleton is formed, reflex responses have begun
Day 43	Brain waves can be recorded
Day 45	Teeth are developing
7 weeks	Lips are sensitive to the touch
8 weeks	Every organ is present and beginning to function, fingerprints are being engraved
10 weeks	Body is sensitive to touch, child squints, swallows, furrows his/her brow, frowns
12 weeks	Baby can kick, turn feet, curl toes, make a fist, open the mouth, and more
4 months	Baby can grasp with hands, turn somersaults

- 5 months Baby reacts to loud noises
- 6 months Fine hair grows, premature babies have survived at this age

If not at conception, at what point are we willing to say “this is a person?”

Consider for a moment, if life doesn’t begin at fertilization. The following are the alternatives:

- **Implantation** — but that’s just a change in location from fallopian tube to uterus.
- **Heartbeat or brainwaves** — but those are just developmental milestones.
- **Pain sensation** —but that’s another stage in development (which might never occur, such as for those with congenital insensitivity to pain [4]).
- **Consciousness** — but that’s also a stage of development which can even change after birth (while sleeping, being in a coma, or under anesthetic).
- **Birth** — but that’s just a change in location.

3. The differences between a child inside and outside the womb do not affect personhood.

The unborn differ from toddlers in only four ways: Size, Level of Development, Environment, and Degree of Dependency (the first letters of each of these differences spell an acronym, SLED).

- a. Size
 - i. An unborn child is smaller than a toddler, but a toddler is smaller than an adult but no less a person.
 - ii. In addition, some adults are smaller than other adults – does it diminish their personhood?
 - iii. Should those who are larger exercise power over those who are smaller?
- b. Level of development
 - i. An unborn child is less developed than a toddler, but toddlers are less developed than adults.
 - ii. If someone says, “An unborn child can’t think, or feel pain, or know it exists”
 - iii. First – at the earliest stages this is true, but that changes rapidly.
 1. May be able to experience pain as early as 11 weeks
 - iv. Some severely disabled people may not understand their existence in the same way as more “normally” developed adults, does it diminish their right to live?
- c. Environment
 - i. An unborn child is in a different environment than a toddler, but toddlers change environments without changing value.
 - ii. The child may be hidden from view, but that should not diminish his or her value or right to live.
- d. Degree of dependency
 - i. Finally, the unborn is more dependent than a toddler, but toddlers are more dependent than adolescents (even if some parents would deny this). And many other born people depend on medications, caregivers, and spacesuits to sustain their lives. They are more dependent than those who don’t need these things.
 - ii. Many adults are dependent on other’s for life – severely injured war veteran, etc.

4. Legal *inconsistencies* demonstrate that people recognize the personhood of an unborn child.

- a. At the Medical University of South Carolina, if a pregnant woman's urine test indicates cocaine use, she can be arrested for distributing drugs to a minor.
- b. Illinois a pregnant woman who takes an illegal drug can be prosecuted for "delivering a controlled substance to a minor."
 - i. This is an explicit recognition that the unborn is a person with rights, deserving protection even from his mother.
- c. Sign in Oregon restaurants



- i.
- d. The U.S. Congress voted unanimously to delay capital punishment of a pregnant woman until after her delivery.
 - i. No stay of execution given for her heart, kidneys, lungs, etc.
- e. In 2004 Congress passed the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," which states that someone who "intentionally kills or attempts to kill the unborn child...be punished... for intentionally killing or attempting to kill a human being."
 - i. Consider the bizarre implications of this double standard. If a woman is scheduled to get an abortion, but on her way to the abortion clinic her baby is killed in-utero, the baby's killer will be prosecuted for murder. But if this murder doesn't occur, an hour later the doctor will be paid to perform a legal procedure killing exactly the same child (in a way that is probably more gruesome).



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By the numbers . . .

- 22% of US pregnancies end in abortion.
- 1.21 million abortions in the US in 2008
- Approximately 60 million abortions since 1973

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1. What does the Bible say about abortion?

a. Human life is sacred because man is made in God's ***image***. Genesis 1:26-27, 9:5-6

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.

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b. We are not to unjustly take a human **life**.

Exodus 20:13

When does life begin?

Is an unborn child considered a human life?

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c. Life begins at **conception**.

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S.L.E.D. – Four ways an unborn child differs from a toddler



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- b. Level of development
- c. Environment
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