



## *“Abortion: A Matter of Life and Death” (Part 1)*

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### **The Importance of the Issue**

Abortion takes the life of approximately 1.3 million babies every year and has claimed the lives of almost 50 million unborn Americans in the past forty years alone. While it's hard to hear the details of what has happened to these babies during the abortion procedure, it's important that we, as well as others, understand what actually transpires. There are a variety of abortion procedures, but we will simply list the most common performed by clinics such as *Planned Parenthood* and others:

- Suction aspiration: this procedure tears apart and suctions out the baby.
- Dilation and Curettage: this has the abortionist insert a knife into the womb and cut the baby into pieces, then to remove and reassemble the tiny body to be sure none of the pieces are left inside.
- Saline burning injection: a saline solution is inserted into the womb to burn the fetus, taking about an hour to end the baby's life and then the dead body is removed.
- Dilation and Extraction/Evacuation: using an ultrasound the doctor grips the fetus's legs with forceps. The unborn is then pulled out through the birth canal and delivered with the exception of its head. While the head is in the womb the doctor penetrates the baby's skull with scissors, opens the scissors to enlarge the hole, and then inserts a catheter. The fetus's brain is vacuumed out, resulting in the skull's collapse. The doctor then completes the womb's evacuation by removing the dead fetus.

The reason such a graphic description of abortion needs to be given is because it is the truth behind what really happens during these procedures. The fallout of such procedures is the death of a baby, the mutilation of a woman's body that takes place, and the physical, spiritual, mental, emotional, and psychological destruction that comes as a result of such procedures.

What is some of the destruction that takes place? The list below is anything but exhaustive, but will give you a feel for what happens to a woman as a result of an abortion:

- Death
- Perforation of the uterus
- Tearing of the cervix
- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- Bladder perforation
- Persistent bleeding
- Depression
- Psychosis
- Suicide

Herein lies why we fight for life. The gravity of this situation is too big for us to ignore. Abortion is murdering a baby that God has designed and crafted and is mutilating and destroying women that God has designed and crafted. (More on God's take on human life to come.)

Despite the horrific nature of what an abortion does to a defenseless baby in the one place it should be the most protected, and despite the destruction it does to the pregnant mother, pro-abortion activists still speak and teach as if they are in the moral right and advocating for women. Below is the case for abortion by the pro-abortion movement.

### **Understanding the Pro-Abortion Position and Their Arguments for It**

If we travel back a decade and a half, the lines between the pro-abortion and pro-life movement were plainly drawn. The information from each side developed at the time addresses the issue in a clear, understandable way.

Planned Parenthood spelled out three basic premises that motivated their work:

**Premise 1: It's not a baby, it's a fetus.**

The literature spoke almost exclusively about the fetus rather than a baby. It spoke very little about pregnancy and focuses largely on a woman's needs and emotions and the impact of unwanted pregnancy on her career, her future, and her body.

**Premise 2: Unwanted pregnancy puts women at risk.**

The literature stressed the anguish, pain, and difficulty that an unwanted pregnancy brings into a woman's life. It focused on the situations of rape, incest, and abnormal stress, and highlighted the dangers of pregnancy in older women. It justified "abortion on demand" because of those reasons.

**Premise 3: The woman is more important than the fetus.**

It was made clear that the woman is a "who" or person, and the fetus is a "what", or mass of tissue. Based on this tenet, the logical conclusion is that a woman should be able to decide when, where, and how to deal with a mass of tissue inside her own body.

Here is the pro-choice presupposition in a nutshell:

**IF** a fetus is a mass of tissue...

**THEN** the removal of that mass of tissue, if it is convenient, makes perfect sense.

Any understanding of the pro-choice opinion must begin with an understanding of the presupposition.

**Understanding the Pro-Life Position and Their Arguments for It**

Pro-life literature from crisis pregnancy clinics and other pro-life organizations have two basic premises upon which their beliefs are based:

**Premise 1: Life begins at conception.**

The pro-life literature states that life begins at conception. The focus, then, is on the needs, rights, and welfare of the fetus. The life, the fetus, is almost always called a baby or pre-born baby. The presumption is based on a singular logic, that from the time of conception, nothing else is added. The embryo simply begins a process of development - a process, in fact, that continues for a number of years outside the womb.

## **Premise 2: Unborn babies are fully human.**

The literature holds that at conception, this life is a human being - not a fully developed human being, but human nonetheless. There is, in fact, no difference between a five, six, or eight month pre-born baby and newborn infant except location. To kill either is to kill a human being.

Here is the pro-life presupposition in a nutshell:

**IF** a fetus is a pre-born human being...

**THEN** it must be protected from externally caused death, under the same ground rules that prohibit all taking of innocent life.

## **Then and Now**

That was the argument from the two sides a decade and a half ago. But what about now? How have things changed?

Today's ultrasound images reveal an amazing look at a child moving, kicking and sucking its thumb. The details are startlingly clear very early in the pregnancy. Even in the San Francisco Bay Area (one of America's most liberal cities), over 85 percent of all women who see this image when they have an unplanned pregnancy decide to carry the baby to term.

Today, when you read the literature from Planned Parenthood, they no longer use the term "fetus". They talk about a baby. The focus in the literature now makes the central issue in abortion simply a matter of timing, viability, and what method to use. They recognize and admit they are dealing with babies, and the rationale for abortions has shifted to emphasize the rights and well-being of the mother.

The issue today is whether the pre-born baby has an inalienable right to live, under any circumstances, or does the mother have the right to terminate the pregnancy for the sake of her own welfare or convenience?

The pro-life position hasn't changed. If the pre-born baby is human, then it's inconceivable to take the life of that innocent person. It amounts to murder. And since the woman now knows it's a baby, the case for premeditated murder could be made.

The pro-abortion position has changed. No longer is the argument over whether the fetus is a mass of tissue. Now the argument is if a pre-born baby negatively impacts the mother's mental or physical health, or the welfare of her family or future, then safe, legal, abortive options must be kept available to that woman.

### **What's Next?**

Due to the fact that ultrasound technology has changed the idea that a fetus isn't a baby there is a new set of arguments for abortion. But with these arguments for abortion that we will explore we will also discover the case for life is even greater and that the arguments for abortion are poorly founded and often times purposefully skewed.

Four reasons the pro-abortionist believes we must have legal abortion options:

**First**, because sometimes the woman's life is at stake if she carries the baby to term.

**Second**, pregnancy as a result of rape or incest requires legalized abortion.

**Third**, if we abolish abortion, then all women will be forced, like in the past, to seek help from butchers performing illegal abortions, and many will be killed or maimed.

**Fourth**, it would invalidate the best technology we have. This includes the use of a pill that has been developed called RU-486 which is being used around the world as a simple and painless abortion alternative.

Four responses from the pro-life advocate:

**First**, C. Everett Koop was a surgeon general of the U.S. who practiced pediatrics for thirty years, and his testimony is that during his medical career, with the medical advances in understanding and technology, he was not aware of a single case in his own practice or that of his colleagues where a choice had to be made between the life of the mother and the life of the child. That argument is a "straw man". It's an emotional argument based on a circumstance that just doesn't happen.

**Second**, of all the people who are raped, only .06 of one percent ever get pregnant. Even though a minuscule number of rapes end in pregnancy, abortion is still not the answer. Compounding evil with evil only brings more evil.

**Third**, the thesis that back alley abortions are going to occur is false. Prior to Roe v. Wade three hundred deaths were recorded due to illegal abortions. Since Roe v. Wade the number of abortions has topped 50 million and the number of deaths in women has far exceeded the number prior to abortion being legal.

**Fourth**, the RU-486 pill is far from simple and painless. It involves swallowing a pill then having to make multiple visits to a clinic. The woman will eventually find herself having massive bleeding and clotting issues as the body aborts life from her womb. Many describe it as one of the most traumatic experiences of their life.

### **In Conclusion**

In summary, it appears that there is no legal, responsible way around it: the unborn are living human beings, loved by God and deserving, though defenseless, of our respect and protection. When we move from emotional tactics to the facts, the answer is overwhelmingly clear and conclusive... Life is valuable because it is created by the Lord and deserving of being protected.