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Do the Unborn Have Rights?

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



A woman's right to choose. A woman's right to privacy. Lose your choice and lose your freedom. A woman's body is her most prized possession. All of these slogans are centerpieces of the unending controversy surrounding abortion, a legal procedure. But *should* it be legal and so accessible? Are there reasons to doubt its place in our world, for the sake of the unborn *and* the sake of the potential mothers? Stay with us as we look into this very difficult subject and try and establish a biblical perspective on rights, life and courage in the face of great challenge.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, New York, February 2011

- *These bills show a heinous disregard for the health and well-being of women in America. It is a tax on women who want access to reproductive health care. They undermine a woman's ability to make the most important decisions in her life with her and her doctor.*

(Source: www.abortionfacts.com, selected quotes)

I am pro-choice. I am not one person, but many. Here is what I believe:

- The fetus is not a human, just a mass of tissue.
- Abortion is safe.
- Every child should be a wanted child.
- The number of abortions is relatively small.
- Nobody has the right to impose their morals on me.
- A woman should be able to control her own body.
- Abortion must be kept legal, especially for all the rape and incest pregnancies.
- If abortion is outlawed, women will be forced to go to back-alley abortion clinics.
- Aborting unwanted children reduces the number of abused children.



Muriel regrets her abortion, felt effects within weeks, youtube.com

- *Within three weeks from the abortion I suffered from illnesses and needed to take prednisone...Later I became pregnant again and had the baby and my illnesses were healed, maybe it was the hormones...I realized what joy of motherhood I robbed myself of.*

Is it a baby, or just a "mass of tissue?"

15-17 days - circulatory system begins to develop.

20 days - brain and nervous system established.

21 days - heart begins beating.

28 days - back bone and muscles are forming; arms, legs, eyes have begun to show.

35 days - brain-wave activity recorded.

42 days - brain begins to control movement of muscles and organs.

63 days - fingerprints are already evident on skin.

At 8 weeks - all organs and systems are present. The time from 8 weeks until birth will be spent growing and maturing.

At 10 weeks - squints if face is stroked, tries to grasp object placed in hand.

Psalms 139:13-14: Deuteronomy 12:22-23: The life is in the blood. A mother's blood nourishes her own body - every one of her organs depend upon her blood to keep it alive and any "blob of tissue" in her body is nourished by her blood. A mother's blood never nourishes an embryo directly, rather the embryo develops its own blood and any mixture of the two can be deadly! So, for a woman to say that she should control her own body is technically excluding the embryo.

- Abortion is safe.
- Every child should be a wanted child.



Blood Money, Carol Everett, is it really "pro choice," bloodmoneyfilm.com

- *In most cases it's not a choice at all...Other options are not presented and a deadly course of action is forced on a woman...The #1 slogan for abortion is pro-choice. The ironic thing about that slogan is that when you ask women who had abortions, why did you have that abortion? The number one response is, "I felt that I had no choice."*



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Rewind

Melissa Ohden, abortion survivor, CBN.com

She was 14 when her older sister was considering an abortion when her mother told her daughters the shocking circumstances of Melissa's birth... "Your mother had an abortion during her 5th month of pregnancy with you and you survived it..."

Scriptures and science show value and individuality long before birth! This is far different than the "mass of tissue" idea.

The account of the prophesied birth of Sampson: Judges 13:3-5: This text shows us the sacredness of pregnancy and helps us understand that what the mother does while pregnant will affect the unborn child. Again, we see value in the unborn. They are not some mass of cells, but they are a developing personality.

- The number of abortions is relatively small.
- Nobody has the right to impose their morals on me.

PLEASE REFER TO **TABLE 2** AT THE END OF THIS REWIND FOR THE RATIO OF LEGAL ABORTIONS BY YEAR REFERENCED IN THE AUDIO PROGRAM.

Post Abortion Syndrome, Introduction, Dr. Karen Hunter

- *Guilt, anxiety, depression, heartache, nightmares, attempted suicide - Post Abortion Syndrome is a very real phenomenon to the woman who experiences it and they deal with it on a daily basis.*

The Bible does not directly deal with abortion, but this next text comes close to dealing with the issue: Exodus 21:22-25: (KJV) ²²If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her **fruit depart** from her, and yet no **mischief** follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. ²³And if any **mischief** follow, then thou shalt give life for life, ²⁴Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, ²⁵Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Let's look into what this text is saying:

Fruit: something born Depart: 1) to go out, come out, exit, go forth Mischief: hurt

The above scripture is too ambiguous to clearly determine that death was the penalty for causing the death of a pregnant woman's child. "**Mischief**" can easily apply only to the mother and seeing that this is the only text that deals with such a matter it, is too difficult to be sure of the exact meaning. What we can clearly determine that the life in the womb was of considerable value. Interference brought consequences.

Melissa Ohden, abortion survivor, joy of adoption, CBN.Com

- *There is no greater gift that a woman can give than life to a child and if she doesn't believe that she can provide for that child forever, then the next best thing she could do for that child is to give them the joy of being with another family for adoption.*

Examples of those "called from their mother's womb" show the great value of the unborn in the eyes of God: Jeremiah 1:5: Isaiah 49:1

NARAL Pro-Choice America commercial, Ashley Judd

- *Many Americans can't conceive of living in a country where they don't have freedom over their own choices. As Americans we can scarcely imagine that once a freedom is gained, it could ever be taken away. But that is by no means guaranteed. When 87% of counties in the U.S. have no abortion provider, 1 in 4 young women has a sexually transmitted infection and women with valid birth control prescriptions are being turned away, we have hard work before us to insure the right to choose in not a right in name only.*
- **A woman should be able to control her own body.**

Luke 1:39-44

Blood Money, Carol Everett, abort for emotional health, bloodmoneyfilm.com

- *Abortions can be done through all nine months of pregnancy for the sake of "mental health." We would say to this a scared young woman, "You would have problems with this pregnancy should you carry it to term, wouldn't you?" She'd say yes and we'd chart it "emotional health."*



- Abortion must be kept legal, especially for all the rape and incest pregnancies.
- If abortion is outlawed, women will be forced to go to back-alley abortion clinics.

Post Abortion Syndrome, PTSD women are wounded, Dr. Karen Hunter

- *Post Abortion Syndrome is a form of Post Traumatic Stress disorder. It's coping with a trauma. 43% of American women are post-abortive...(note: this is unverified) women are broken, they hide, it's a secret, women are so wounded.*

See previous chart for discussion on instances of rape and incest regarding abortion. Less than 1/2 of 1% is because of rape and incest.

Galatians 1:15-16: The Apostle Paul was chosen from his mother's womb.

The Dark Secret, shame especially in the church, 100 Huntley Street, Canadian TV

- *Shame is a common emotion after an abortion. This kind of grief is particularly difficult because it is our own child that is lost at our own hand. Pro-life people hate what we have done, but believe me, they don't hate what we have done as much as we hate what we have done.*

Job laments his misfortunes and uses the example of the death of an infant, both before and after birth: Job 3:11-17: Job 10:18-19

- **Aborting unwanted children reduces the number of abused children.**

Child abusers are most typically children of child abusers (30%+). Over the last 25 years the instance of abortions have dipped (down to 1.2 million per year vs. 1.5 million), yet the instances of abuse have dramatically skyrocketed (up over 130% 1.4 million to 3.3 million). There is no correlation between the two - see the **Full Edition Bonus Material** for details.

What if you aborted your child? What do you do?

Psalms 103:8-13 1 Corinthians 10:13: We come to God through Jesus. Forgiveness from God is available. We need to ask and then live as though we are forgiven. We need to learn from our mistakes and live differently.

Sometimes life is difficult. Sometimes you may get yourself into situations, such as an unwanted pregnancy that will ruin your plans, change your course and permanently redirect your life. Whether this pregnancy was caused by foolishness or violence, the trauma is still present. According to the law, you have choices. No matter which option you choose, you must realize that it WILL affect you for the rest of your life.

What should you do? End the pregnancy to avoid the changes and inconveniences that are sure to follow? By law, you could do that. But what are the *lasting results* of such an action? You see, we never know. Suicide, depression and guilt have been reported as possible outcomes. Worse than those difficulties, there is now a life that can no longer be lived.

Abortion is a basic moral matter. If you would be courageous and take the time to simply look at pictures of fetal development and understand the miraculous time-line of growth within the womb, the presence of precious life is undeniable. If you are very brave, you can view the barbaric, graphic and mournful results of abortion on the web.

- Don't live your life out of convenience - it will inevitably make you unhappy.
- Don't live your life wishing some things did not happen - that simply destines you to relive the past, rather than embracing the present.
- Don't live your life having to hide your decisions - such actions will swallow you in guilt.
- Instead - do the right thing - take full responsibility - press forward in spite of the odds.
- It is scary and it is difficult - you will be laughed at and you will miss out on lots of things.
- You will also save a life, a precious human life with untapped potential!
- In so doing, you will begin to find yourself; you will begin to find happiness, a clear conscience and a sense of well-being that can only come to those who preserve life!

Choose life!

Matthew 12:20: (NASB) *A battered reed He will not break off, And a smoldering wick He will not put out, Until He leads justice to victory.*



*Do the unborn have rights?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

Year	Number of Abortions reported to CDC	induced abortion ratio per 1,000 live births
1970	193,491	52
1971	485,816	137
1972	586,760	180
1973	615,831	196
1974	763,476	242
1975	854,853	272
1976	988,267	312
1977	1,079,430	325
1978	1,157,776	347
1979	1,251,921	358
1980	1,297,606	359
1981	1,300,760	358
1982	1,303,980	354
1983	1,268,987	349
1984	1,333,521	364
1985	1,328,570	364
1986	1,328,112	354
1987	1,353,671	356
1988	1,371,285	352
1989	1,396,658	346
1990	1,429,247	345
1991	1,388,937	339
1992	1,359,145	335
1993	1,330,414	321
1994	1,267,415	334
1995	1,210,883	311
1996	1,221,585	314
1997	1,186,039	274
1998	884,273	264
1999	861,789	256
2000	857,475	246
2001	853,485	246
2002	854,122	246
2003	848,163	241
2004	839,226	238
2005	820,151	233
2006	846,181	236
2007	827,609	231
2008-2010	not yet published	
Total	48,106,910	

* Number of abortions per 1,000 live births.

† Number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 years.

§ State health departments and the health departments of New York City and the District of Columbia.

¶ Hospitals or other medical facilities in state.

** Beginning in 1996, the ratio was based on births reported by the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.

†† Without estimates for Alaska, California, New Hampshire, and Oklahoma, which did not report number of legal abortions for 1998–1999.

§§ Without estimates for Alaska, California, and New Hampshire, which did not report number of legal abortions for 1998–2002.

¶¶ Without estimates for California, New Hampshire, and West Virginia, which did not report number of legal abortions for 2003 and 2004.

*** Without estimates for California, New Hampshire, and Louisiana, which did not report for 2005.

††† Without estimates for Alaska, which did not report number of legal abortions for 1998–2002; for California and New Hampshire, which did not report for 1998–2004; for Oklahoma, which did not report for 1998–1999; for West Virginia, which did not report for 2003–2004; and for Louisiana, which did not report for 2005.