

## Sanctity of Human Life

1. Is Human life more valuable than animal life?
2. When is the unborn a person?
3. Is abortion murder?
4. Can you legislate morality?
5. What about tolerance and compassion?

## Is human life more valuable than animal life?

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

*Genesis 1:26-27*

## Is human life more valuable than animal life?

"If anyone takes the life of a human being, he must be put to death. 18 Anyone who takes the life of someone's animal must make restitution — life for life. 19 If anyone injures his neighbor, whatever he has done must be done to him: 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. As he has injured the other, so he is to be injured. 21 Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a man must be put to death.

*Leviticus 24:17-21*

## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"The unborn is a *potential* person."

**The unborn has its complete, separate genetic code from conception. At conception, or fertilization, the conceptus has its own individual genetic code, not part of either the father's or mother's body. Neither the male or female reproductive elements has all human genetic characteristics.**



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"The unborn is a *potential* person."

**Nothing in the genetic makeup changes from conception. The only change that takes place is the growth and development of a particular human individual. The process of growth and development that this individual undergoes continues into infancy, childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.**



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"The unborn is a *potential* person."

**Thus, fertilization, or conception is the point at which a new human life begins.**



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about the developmental, sociological, psychological, and interactive view of personhood?"

If someone simply stipulates what will count as personhood. If someone is allowed to choose a definition to one's liking, then one can (as some have) so define value that Jews, Blacks, Asians, and American Indians no longer count as persons.



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about the developmental, sociological, psychological, and interactive view of personhood?"

Moreover, because the definition is stipulative, any criteria that demarcate the commencement of personhood will be arbitrary. Thus, there will be nothing to commend those criteria more than other choices one might make (unless, of course, one chooses genetic criteria).



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about the developmental, sociological, psychological, and interactive view of personhood?"

This means that if the developmental argument proves anything, it proves too much. The same argument would support infanticide, euthanasia and destruction of the severely mentally handicapped, since they cannot achieve functions that are necessary for human value under this view.



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about the developmental, sociological, psychological, and interactive view of personhood?"

Moreover, those disqualified as persons and open to elimination are just the ones we would think merit the most protection by the law, since they are the most unable to protect themselves.



## When is the unborn a person?

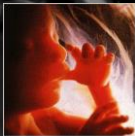
### What does man say?

"But the unborn is different than an infant or an adult! Different in *Size, Development, Dependence, Mobility.*"

But are these differences morally relevant?

"Not the size, but the *development* is."

What about the pre-adolescent child whose reproductive system is not fully developed? Is it less terrible to molest or kill smaller, less developed children as larger, more fully developed ones?



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"But the unborn is *dependent* and *immobile.*"

Is it less evil to kill a dependent, immobile victim (a paralytic for example) than an independent or mobile one?



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about *viability*, the ability to live on its own outside the mother's womb?"

1. The issue of dependence/independence is not morally relevant.
2. The unborn is not dependent upon the mother for its identity.



## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about *viability*, the ability to live on its own outside the mother's womb?"

3. Its dependence on the mother for nourishment and thus life continue long after birth.
4. The sick and the elderly are dependent too; are they not persons?
5. All of us are always dependent: on each other, on nature, etc.

## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about *viability*, the ability to live on its own outside the mother's womb?"

6. Viability depends upon time and place, personhood does not! Viability occurs at younger and younger ages as our medical technology increases. Fifty to one-hundred years ago viability wasn't as good as it is today. In many countries today, medical technology is so ancient that viability is not what it is in the United States. Is the 30 week old unborn in India less human than the 28 week old unborn in the United States?

## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about *viability*, the ability to live on its own outside the mother's womb?"

Viability changes as our technology advances. When Roe-v-Wade was passed viability was between 24-28 weeks. Now some babies have survived 20 weeks after conception. What are we to say concerning the situation where some health-care facilities are allowing viable babies to be killed by abortion in one room while in another room doctors are trying heroically to save other viable infants born prematurely.

## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about *viability*, the ability to live on its own outside the mother's womb?"

If the 24 week old preemie is fully human, then so is the 28 week old unborn who can be legally killed by abortion. These are time and place considerations, not personhood considerations!

7. We are all nonviable in relation to certain environments. If anyone of us were placed on the moon for just a few minutes, one would quickly become aware of their non-viability, but this doesn't make them become non-human or a non-person.

## When is the unborn a person?

### What does man say?

"What about *viability*, the ability to live on its own outside the mother's womb?"

If you are placed under water without SCUBA gear, you quickly going to become nonviable, but you're still human and still a person.

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does man say?

"Abortion is a *theological* issue."

But it's the *scientific, medical and philosophical* arguments that show the personhood of the unborn. All of the factors that make up the concept of personhood are derived from the *scientific* (unborn has its own distinct and separate genetic makeup), *medical*, and *philosophical* arguments, not theological.

### When is the unborn a person?

#### Point

If the final conclusion is that we *do not know* whether or not an unborn is a person as some admit-- is it wise to kill the unborn not knowing whether they are persons? Would it be wise or foolish for a hunter to shoot at a sudden movement in the bush not knowing whether it was a deer or a fellow hunter?

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does God say?

"If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely (yatza) but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. 23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life,..."

**Exodus 21:22-23**

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does God say?

"But he said to me, 'Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son, and now you shall not drink wine or strong drink nor eat any unclean thing, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God **from the womb** to the day of his death.'"

**Judges 13:7**

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does God say?

Upon Thee I was cast from birth; Thou hast been my God **from my mother's womb**. **Psalms 22:10**

For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. 14 I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from Thee, When I was made in secret, {And} skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. 16 Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Thy book they were all written, The days that were ordained {for me}, When as yet there was not one of them. **Psalms 139:13-16**

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does God say?

Listen to Me, O islands, And pay attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD **called Me from the womb**; From the body of My mother He named Me. 5 And now says the LORD, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, in order that Israel might be gathered to Him For I am honored in the sight of the LORD, And My God is My strength),

**Isaiah 49:1,5**

"Before I formed you in the *womb* I knew you, And **before you were born I consecrated you**; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

**Jeremiah 1:5**

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does God say?

"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and **he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb.** 16  
 "And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. **Luke 1:15-16**

And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, **the baby leaped in my womb for joy.** **Luke 1:41, 44**

### When is the unborn a person?

#### What does God say?

But when He who had set me apart, **{even} from my mother's womb**, and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, **Galatians 1:15-16**

### Is abortion murder?

"Intentional killing of an innocent human being."

1. Is the unborn a intentionally killed? **YES**
2. Is the unborn innocent? **YES**
3. Is the unborn a human being? **YES**

### Is abortion murder?

Whether we CALL abortion murder depends upon whether we CALL the unborn a person. But whether abortion IS murder depends upon whether the unborn IS a person.

BEING a person, and simply BEING CALLED a person are not to be confused!

### Can you legislate morality?

"You can't legislate morality!"

**Yes, but there must be laws regulating deeds! Does this mean we do away with all laws that have moral foundations? Do we now make murder legal? We are not trying to make people develop a moral character by making and enforcing laws (that's the role of religion), we are trying to prevent people from doing things that endanger others' lives regardless of how they feel about it! People who are mass murderers obviously haven't developed a moral conscience concerning murder, but society can't make murder legal just because there will always be people who commit murder!**

### Can you legislate morality?



**"We hear the familiar cry that morals can't be legislated. This may be true, but behavior can be regulated. The law may not be able to make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me."**  
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Can you legislate morality?

"You can't make people good by passing laws!"

**"It is, however, a categorical error to conclude from this basic fact the further point that all efforts to govern morality must invariably fail. Government legislates morality all the time. Indeed it is moral ideas that are and must remain the basis of most of our laws."** Steven G. Calabresi, "Render Unto Caesar That Which Is Caesar's, and Unto God That Which Is God's," *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy* 31, no. 2 (2008)

## Can you legislate morality?

"You can't make people good by passing laws!"

**John Austin is considered by many to be the creator of the school of analytical jurisprudence.**

**"Austin's simple point is secure: the world is better if it is morally better, and to the extent legislators can achieve that moral betterment through law, they should do so."** Michael S. Moore, "Four Reflections on Law and Morality," *William and Mary Law Review* 48, no. 5 (2007)

## Can you legislate morality?

"You can't make people good by passing laws!"

**"It's often said that you can't legislate morality. But we have, in fact, done just that. The civil-rights legislation in the 1960s had the effect not only of legally proscribing racial discrimination but also of proscribing it morally. The fact is that individuals, communities, families, neighborhoods, and churches do not function in isolation. They cannot sustain traditional values that are at odds with those being promoted by the government, by the courts, and by the culture. All values, even traditional values, have to be legitimized.**

## Can you legislate morality?

"You can't make people good by passing laws!"

**And in a secular society, the main organs of legitimization are government, law, and the culture. We must not only eliminate laws and social policies that have illegitimized traditional values. They also must devise laws and social policies that will legitimize traditional values. One might say that our legislators and policy makers are as much our moral instructors as are our teachers and preachers."** Daniel R. Coats, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Don Eberly, and David Boaz, "Can Congress Revive Civil Society?," *Policy Review*, no. 75 (1996)

## Can you legislate morality?

"You can't make people good by passing laws!"

**We don't want to make people good, we want to stop their actions that are wrong, and if we can't stop their actions we want to provide penalties for those actions. You can't make a murderer stop murdering, a thief stop stealing, a rapist stop raping, an arsonist stop setting fires by merely passing laws either, but you can punish their wrong actions and hopefully send a message to potential murderers, rapists, thieves, arsonists, etc. that their actions will not be tolerated and will not go unpunished!**

## Can you legislate morality?

"Unenforceable laws should not exist."

**Laws against suicide are good and yet are unenforceable! Besides, Anti-abortion laws would not be unenforceable. Prior to the 1973 Roe -vs- Wade decision legalizing abortion, there were only a few thousand illegal abortions each year in the United States.**



### Can you legislate morality?

"Unenforceable laws should not exist."

Since Roe -vs- Wade the United States averages 1.5 million abortions per year! We have aborted over 54 million unborn in the last 36 years! The United States ought to apologize to Nazi Germany and the former Soviet Union!



### Can you legislate morality?

"Like it or not, abortion is legal! The Supreme Court declared it legal in 1973."

In March of 1857 the Supreme Court once decreed that a black slave was not a person in the Dred Scott case.



### Can you legislate morality?

"Like it or not, abortion is legal! The Supreme Court declared it legal in 1973."

Nazi laws decreed that Jews were in effect non-persons, thus Hitler convinced thousands of people that exterminating 6 million Jews was acceptable!



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"But we should be tolerant! We shouldn't force a woman to have a child, a prisoner to the electric chair, or a soldier to the battlefield."

Don't liberal abortion laws allow some people to force death on the unborn? You don't believe in restricting a woman's choice, but you have no problem restricting the life of the unborn!



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"We don't want to force pro-lifers to have abortions, but they want to force us NOT to have abortions! This demonstrates we are less restrictive!"

Is it not the most severe restriction of all to be killed? If you are really against force, why do you want to force death on unwilling millions?



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"I'm against abortion but I don't want to impose my personal views with those who disagree with me."

Why (unless you believe the unborn is a person) are you against abortion? If you believe it's a person why would you not protect innocent human life by passing a law against abortion. Suppose the KKK wanted to begin lynching again? Would you be imposing your values on them by making and enforcing laws against lynching?



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"I'm against abortion but I don't want to impose my personal views with those who disagree with me."

**Suppose a Neo-Nazi party arose and wanted to begin exterminating Jews again. Would you be imposing your values on them by restricting their activities?**



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"We want laws that are compassionate; laws that help people, not repress and restrict them."

**By protecting against bombs, inflation, rape, lynching, and genocide? But not against abortion? We have already established that the unborn are people too! What about them?**



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"We are against the use of force, we appreciate everyone the way they are. We shouldn't force women to do something they don't want to do."

**Isn't abortion the use of force to change the unborn from living to dead? There are people who don't want the responsibility of their children, or their aged parents, does that mean we should give them the right to murder them because they have become an inconvenience?**



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"Pro-lifers use such harsh language in their arguments."

**Abortion is a harsh reality. 1.5 million unborn babies are killed by abortion each year in the United States.**



### What about tolerance and compassion?

"But a woman should have reproductive freedom!"  
A woman *does* have reproductive freedom.

**Chastity  
Contraception  
Motherhood  
Adoption  
Abortion**

### What about tolerance and compassion?

"But why should she choose life? What about her emotional pain and suffering?"

**"Because it is always morally preferable to suffer evil than to commit evil."**



