

Sunday, Jan.24, 2010

Living Hope EFC

Art Smith

Sanctity of Life Sunday. Is the unborn a Person?

QUOTE: George Will, Washington Post – some years ago...

"Americans are proud of their humane feelings & are moved by empathy. Thus, we regulate the ways animals can be killed. Certain kinds of traps are banned. Cattle cannot be slaughtered in ways deemed careless about pain. Stray dogs & cats must be killed in certain ways...But no laws regulate the suffering of the aborted."

What is the *Christian's* view of the unborn? Is the unborn a **person**?

- If not: Abortion is merely "post conception contraception."
- If the unborn is a "person," Roe: "Then abortion is wrong, for the fetus' right to live is then guaranteed ... by the **14th Amendment**."
- Which in part reads: "Nor shall any state deprive **any person** of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to *any person* within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the Laws," 1868.
- "**The court held** that a **baby** or **fetal child** was **not a person** under the Constitution, and that a right to privacy existed and included the right to have an abortion...a mother had a right to abortion until viability, a point to be determined by the abortion doctor." *wikipedia*

C. Everett Koop points out: "Justice Blackman, who wrote the majority opinion [Roe VS Wade supreme court decision, 1973, which legalized abortion in the U.S.] made it perfectly clear that if any religion was to be a guide to him it would be paganism. He alluded to the practice of the Persians, the Greeks, and of the Romans, but he ignored Christianity. The Hippocratic oath which has been taken by physicians for the past 2,000 years specifically prohibits abortion & the suggestion of it. Justice Blackman laid this aside as having no relevance today." 38-40.

OUR SITUATION TODAY: *According to the Nat. Conf. Of Cath. Bishops*

- 1- More than 1 ½ million abortions are performed in the U.S. each year.
- 2- Abortions is legal in the U.S. through all nine months of pregnancy.
- 3- About 1% of all abortions in the U.S. are performed for reasons related to the mother's health, about 1% for psychological health reasons or to prevent handicapped children, the remaining 98% are performed for social or financial reasons–(a matter of convenience, career, shame, expense, too young). – *Abortion Brochure*

QUESTION: If the unborn is a "person," is the U.S. murdering 1 ½ million innocent people every year? How would God look upon this?

- **Q:** **What does God say?** NOT "Is it legal?" *Legal is not always moral.*

1- Scripture declares the Unborn is a Person.

(1) Genesis 25:21-26. Two nations. Two brothers. "*Two peoples.*"

- Paul says of them: **Rom.9:11-12. Did God consider them people?**
- **NOTE:** The babies are NOT part of the mother's body. Science affirms there are 2 heartbeats, 2 brain waves, 2 bodies, 2 individuals.

(2) Isaiah 44:2. God made Jacob (person) in the womb!

(3) Luke 1:41-44. The whole tenor of Elizabeth's thoughts are that the babies in these two women's wombs – were people already!

- The word Dr. Luke uses is βρεφος = Baby or infant.
- He does not use "tissue, unformed mass, product of conception."
- Luke 1:15 – J.B. was filled with the HS – "from the womb."

2- Scripture declares the Unborn is a Person *at Conception.*

(1) Jeremiah 1:4-5. "Before" he was formed!

- When does God recognize an individual as a person? Eph.1:4.

(2) Job 10:8-12. It is God who intimately forms a person at conception

- NOTE: In Rom.9:20 "Will what is molded (*πλασμα*) say to the one..."

(3) Luke 1:35-36, Matt.1:21. *People* are formed at conception.

- Medically, the 23 chromosomes in the egg & in the sperm, once united into one cell, this union has all the DNA, the whole genetic code, that will become a mature human being, Koop, 27.
- All that is added is a safe environment, nourishment & time.

(4) Psalm 139:13-16. The biblical "ultrasound" of the baby in uterus.

- Woven together = From unformed to formed, in the womb –v.15.
- He intricately & skillfully forms joints, ligaments, shape, and color.
- V.16 – God SEES the person in the womb.
- A person's future is known to God from embryonic stage. Rev.17:8.

Slides: Stages of growth in the womb; 8 wks, 12 wks, 16 wks, 5 mos.

Baby at 8 weeks

"Fetus" is the Latin word for "young one" or "offspring."

Everything that will be found in a fully developed adult is now present. Elbows and fingers become evident. The heart has been beating for more than a month, the stomach produces digestive juices and the kidneys have begun to function. Forty muscle sets begin to operate in conjunction with the nervous system.

- Has brain waves At 40 days. Nose, eyes, ears, toes appear.
- Do you see anything that looks like a blob of tissue? Or a person?
- James 2:26 "As the body without the spirit is dead..." **Is spirit present**

Baby at 12 weeks

At 12 weeks of development, the fetus is about two inches long. It has recognizable sleep patterns by this time, and when it is awake, it exercises its muscles by turning its head and curling its toes. It is capable of holding its mother's hand.

- Swallows, squints, moves tongue, sucks its thumb.

Baby at 16 weeks

By the end of the fourth month, the fetus may be eight to ten inches in length and weighs a half-pound or more. She has begun to use her reflexes; sucking, swallowing, and blinking. And an experienced sonographer might be able to determine if your baby is a boy or a girl.

The fetus listens to its mother's voice and heartbeat every day.

Baby at 5 months (Traditional age of viability)

Now about 12 inches long, and the mother feels fetal movement on a regular basis. Eyelids and eyebrows are fully formed. Fingernails have grown to the end of the fingers. If a sound outside is especially loud or startling, the fetus may react with a sudden movement. If you talk, read, or sing, expect her to hear you. The baby can now feel pain, possibly as early as 18 weeks -She can cry & can live outside the womb.

QUOTES: Geneticists at Congressional Hearings, April 23, 1981

A Senate Judiciary Subcommittee held hearings on the very question: ***When does human life begin?*** Numerous expert testimonies were given.

- [Science confirms the unborn is a person from conception!](#)

Dr. Micheline M. Mathews-Roth, Assoc. Prof. Medicine, Harvard Univ.

"In biology & in medicine, it is an accepted fact that the life of any individual organism reproducing by sexual reproduction begins at conception, or fertilization."

- This statement was supported by quotes from over 20 embryology & other scientific texts.

Dr. McCarthy de Mere, a medical doctor and law professor at the University of Tennessee.

testified: "The exact moment of the beginning of personhood and of the human body is at the moment of conception."

Dr. Hymie Gordon: Chairman of the Dept of Genetics at the Mayo Clinic

"Now we can say, unequivocally, that the question of when life begins is no longer a question for theological or philosophical dispute. It is an established scientific fact. Theologians and philosophers may go on to debate the meaning of life or the purpose of life, but it is an established fact that all life, including human life, begins at the moment of conception."

Dr. Jerome Lejeune: Famous French Geneticist, known as "The Father of Modern Genetics," (See Prolife.com) www.prolife.com/FETALDEV.html

- An MD & a Doctor of Science & a professor of Fundamental Genetics for over twenty years. Discoverer of Down Syndrome chromosome.

"To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or of opinion. The human nature of the human being from conception to old age is not a metaphysical contention, it is plain experimental evidence."

–Louisiana Legislature, June 1990 Dr. Lejeune explained that within three to seven days after fertilization we can determine if the new human being is a boy or a girl. "At no time," Dr. Lejeune said, "is the human being a blob of protoplasm. As far as your nature is concerned, I see no difference between the early person that you were at conception and the late person which you are now. You were, and are, a human being."

Dr. Lejeune also pointed out that each human being is unique -- different from the mother -- from the moment of conception. He said, "Recent discoveries by Dr. Alec Jeffreys of England demonstrate that this information [on the DNA molecule] is stored by a system of bar codes not unlike those found on products at the supermarket...it's not any longer a theory that each of us is unique."

POINT: From conception we are unique human beings, people!

3- Scripture declares the Unborn is a Person, abortion is murder.

(1) Genesis 9:5-7. God makes every person in His image, at conception. Man's value is set by God, not man. He knits each one together. Every person, every child, every baby belongs to God.

- **Therefore, murder is a sin against God**, a usurping of God's creation ownership and authority. God so values every life that to not take the life of a murderer is to devalue the life of other humans. James 3:9.

(2) Exodus 21:22-23. If the death of a pre-mature birth occurs, God looks upon it as murder. It may be unintentional, but God sees it as the taking of a life. Unintentional manslaughter did not require death penalty

- God / Moses / Law – seems to apply equally to mother & child.

WE ARE NOT THE FIRST CULTURE TO LEGALIZE MURDER...

1- At the Nuremberg Doctor's Trial in 1947, witness Walter Schmidt supplied the predominant rationalization for the Nazi program of extermination. 'The jurists in Berlin told us that this was a legal matter, quite legal.'

2- In 1980 Dr. Michael Jackson's justification for owning & operating 6 abortion clinics was, "I just go by what the courts say. I do what is legal."

CONSIDER:

1- If rape is justification for abortion: Do you undo the rape by killing a baby? No. You only add the guilt of murder.

Ethyl Waters, famous black gospel singer, was the result of a rape.

2- What if a mother's life is threatened if she gives birth?

C. Everett Koop: "Protection of the life of the mother as an excuse for an abortion is a smoke screen. In my 36 years of pediatric surgery I have never known of one instance where the child had to be aborted to save the mother's life. If toward the end of the pregnancy complications arise that threaten the mother's health, the doctor will either induce labor or perform a Caesarian section...The baby's life is never willfully destroyed because the mother's life is in danger." -

3- If the Dr. warns of deformity or potential health problems for baby?

Beethoven: Consider!

The father has syphilis, the mother has tuberculosis. They have had 4 kids. The first was blind, the second died, the third was deaf & dumb, the fourth had tuberculosis.

The mother is now pregnant with her fifth child but is willing to have an abortion – if you determine that she should. What would you decide?

If you decide abortion, you just murdered Beethoven!

- (Medical history from: R.C. Agnew, USC Medical School)

Tim Tebow's mom: GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Tim Tebow is taking his star power to sport's biggest stage.

The former Florida quarterback and his mother will appear in a 30-second commercial during the Super Bowl next month. The Christian group Focus on the Family says the Tebows will share a personal story centering on the theme "Celebrate Family, Celebrate Life."

The group isn't releasing details, but the commercial is likely to be an anti-abortion message chronicling Pam Tebow's 1987 pregnancy. After getting sick during a mission trip to the Philippines, she ignored a recommendation by doctors to abort her fifth child and gave birth to Tim.

The 2007 Heisman Trophy winner ended his college career with several NCAA, Southeastern Conference and school records, and two national championships.

SO WHAT DO WE DO?

(Matt.18:10 & 19:14)

- 1- Know what God / Scripture says about the value of the Unborn.
 - As Christians, our values come from God, not man.
- 2- Do not vote for any candidates who are willing to kill babies.
- 3- Sign the petition for the Personhood Amendment in Colorado.
- 4- Share God's view of life whenever you have the opportunity.
- 5- Support Alpha Center. Fill a baby bottle with change.
- 6- Consider adopting babies who may otherwise be aborted.
- 7- Take a turn picketing the Planned Parenthood Center.