

# Sanctity of Life

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January 9, 2022

Since I am going to be out next week which is typically Sanctity of Life Sunday on the anniversary of Row v Wade, I am presenting my thoughts today.

I want to make it perfectly clear that I am opposed to abortion which I consider to be the willful, deliberate taking of innocent human life. I also want to make it perfectly clear that I believe that human life begins at conception and should be treated with respect and dignity.

What exactly was decided by Row v Wade: In January 1973, the Supreme Court issued a 7–2 decision that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides a "right to privacy" protecting a pregnant woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.

Here is what the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment actually says in Section One: ***All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; 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.***

How would you read this? Do you see within this constitutional amendment the right of a woman to decide to take the life of her child while in the womb? Here is what I notice in this amendment:

- **The constitution does not guarantee the rights of the unborn.** However, neither does it guarantee the rights of those not born or naturalized within the US. This would include those here illegally. Does this mean we would not recognize the worth of an illegal alien and provide protection from those who would do bodily harm to them? This amendment was ratified in 1868 a mere three years after the civil war. There were thousands of African slaves in the US who were neither born here nor naturalized as citizens. Should it have been legal to kill them because they did not enjoy the protection of this amendment?
- This amendment makes clear that a state cannot deprive a citizen, born or naturalized, of a right given under the constitution without due process. My question where do we find the right within the constitution to take life within the womb? **The so-called "right to privacy" is based on the phrase "nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property..." with emphasis on "liberty."**

The court in a 7-2 decision interpreted “liberty” as a “right to choose” an abortion. Since the baby is not born or a naturalized citizen, then he or she is not considered a person protected by the constitution, i.e. has no individual rights.

- This is the very, very thin thread by which *Row v Wade* hangs.

It is my belief that the abortion question rests on two matters:

- **Science: When does human life begin?**
- **Morality: Is it right to take innocent human life?**

The weight of these two answers surely are strong enough to break that thin thread constructed by the court in deciding *Row v Wade*.

What does Science tell us about when human life begins?

- "Human development begins after the union of male and female gametes or germ cells during a process known as *fertilization* (conception).  
"Fertilization is a sequence of events that begins with the contact of a *sperm* (spermatozoon) with a *secondary oocyte* (ovum) and ends with the fusion of their *pronuclei* (the haploid nuclei of the sperm and ovum) and the mingling of their chromosomes to form a new cell. This fertilized ovum, known as a *zygote*, is a large diploid cell that is the beginning, or *primordium*, of a human being."  
[Moore, Keith L. *Essentials of Human Embryology*. Toronto: B.C. Decker Inc, 1988, p.2]
- "The development of a human being begins with fertilization, a process by which two highly specialized cells, the *spermatozoon* from the male and the oocyte from the female, unite to give rise to a new organism, the *zygote*."  
[Langman, Jan. *Medical Embryology*. 3rd edition. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1975, p. 3]
- "Embryo: The developing individual between the union of the germ cells and the completion of the organs which characterize its body when it becomes a separate organism.... At the moment the sperm cell of the human male meets the ovum of the female and the union results in a fertilized ovum (zygote), a new life has begun.... The term embryo covers the several stages of early development from conception to the ninth or tenth week of life."  
[Considine, Douglas (ed.). *Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia*. 5th edition. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1976, p. 943]

What does Morality tell us about the taking of human life?

- This is more difficult to answer because of the nature of “morality.” Broadly speaking (this is a deep subject within philosophy) there are some options as to the basis of morality within a society:
  - Commonly accepted practices and beliefs arising from a consensus of what is profitable for the sustaining of a community of social beings.

- Some innate moral code, such as conscience, that governs men's relationships.
- Morality based on what some call religion, or specifically on the revealed will of a supernatural being who has moral authority over mankind, either due to creation or by sear power.
- What do Americans think about abortion?
  - Pew Research, 2021: Today, a 59% majority of U.S. adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 39% think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. These views are relatively unchanged in the past few years.
  - However, they go on to point out this: Fewer take the position that in all cases abortion should be either legal (25%) or illegal (13%).
- Does the Bible support the right to abortion?
  - The baby in the womb:
    - Psa. 139
    - Jesus/John in the womb
    - Creation: The image of God
  - Teachings on murder
    - Ten Commandments
    - Romans 1: "unloving and unmerciful" and "approve of those who practice them."

All across this country there are moves being made on both sides of this practice to either eliminate or at least limit abortions or to maintain the status quo or expand the practice of abortion. **I believe that we should-must-take the most conservative position possible on this matter including human life beginning at conception because the stakes are too high for being wrong.** The more liberal one is on this practice the greater the risk of being guilty of murdering innocent life. If you or someone you know have had an abortion, it is essential to know that God loves you and is willing and able to forgive you and make you whole again. If you need help at any point in this decision making process please let me know and help will be provided. There are other options other than abortion.