

Abortion and the Hard Cases

Rape, Incest, Life of the Mother, and Handicapped Child are the reasons most commonly used to try to keep abortion legal.

Before we discuss these excuses, let's take a look at some important facts:

Human life begins at conception

- **It is at that point that our DNA is complete.** Every physical characteristic is determined by DNA at conception. The color of your eyes, the color of your hair (or whether you will have hair later in life), the size of your shoes, whether you will have diabetes later in life – all this and more is determined at conception. You are not a “potential” human being – at conception you are a complete human being with lots of potential.
- **Each person is created by God in His image and is loved by God.** As Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen said, *“God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because God loves us.”*
- **Nowhere else in the law have we legalized a holocaust of human beings for rare exceptions.** We did not legalize shoplifting, even though some people steal because they are starving. We do not overturn traffic laws even though some emergencies require violating the law. Just because some laws have exceptions does not mean that we overturn the laws in all 50 states – but that is exactly what happens with the laws prohibiting abortion. Roe v. Wade was a fabricated case and because of this decision over 40,000,000 Americans have lost their lives before they were born.
- **Rape, incest, and life of the mother situations are extremely rare,** and in total account for just over 1% of all abortions.

Rape

- **Abortion does nothing to help the woman who has been raped.** She is just as raped after an abortion as before the abortion. It does not help her feel better about being raped or make her forget that she was raped. A woman who has been raped needs love, care, counseling, and medical assistance.
- **Pregnancy is extremely rare from rape because a woman does not ovulate when she is under stress or is traumatized.** And, if she goes to a hospital for treatment immediately after a rape, she will not become pregnant. The treatment fight disease and other ailments associated with a rape.

So, how can we as a society help women who have been raped? We should stop relying on abortion as the answer to the problem. Here are some other things we *could* do:

1. *We should teach women how to protect themselves from a rapist.* There are many excellent and effective ways a woman can protect herself.
2. *We should aggressively prosecute rapists with stiff penalties if convicted.*
3. *We should teach young men and women to respect each other* and not look upon someone as a sex object or conquest.
4. *We should provide real help and counseling to the woman who has been the victim of rape.* Love, concern, and understanding are needed to overcome the feelings of guilt and shame.
5. *Something good can come out of the horrible situation of rape.* If the woman is pregnant, giving life and helping a couple who cannot have a baby is a beautiful alternative to killing the child in the womb.

Incest Over 30 years ago, when abortion was illegal, the doctor was required by law to talk to the pregnant girl, one-on-one, and find out who was the father of the baby. If the girl was the victim of incest, the crime was reported to the police, the perpetrator would go to jail and the girl would receive the help she needed. Today, the abortionist does not care who the father of the baby is and does not ask. This allows the perpetrator to take his victim to get an abortion and then she is returned to the same situation – in other words, **abortion allows incest to continue**. Abortion protects the predator and enslaves the victim of incest. (Note: a minor girl can obtain an abortion without parental knowledge or permission)

Life of the Mother First, let's define abortion. Abortion is the premeditated killing of the child in the womb and that is the sole purpose of the surgery. So, here are a couple of situations that are not real "abortions":

- The doctor discovers a pregnant woman has a **cancerous uterus**. Whether she is pregnant or not, the doctor might recommend an emergency hysterectomy to save the woman's life – this is not an abortion.
- In the case of a **tubal pregnancy**, the only outcome for the baby is death and the continuation of development might be life-threatening to the mother. Again, it is not an abortion to remove a tubal pregnancy.

Therefore, if we eliminate pre-existing conditions and other "non-abortions", threats to the life of the mother are rare if not non-existent. While he was United States Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop stated publicly that **in his thirty-eight years as a pediatric surgeon, he was never aware of a single situation in which a preborn child's life had to be taken in order to save the life of the mother**. He said the use of this argument to justify abortion in general was a "smoke screen."

Handicapped Child Here are some things to think about in connection with abortion in the case of a handicap.

- First, **how severe does the handicap have to be** before someone determines the child should not live, and who makes that decision? Is a cleft palate severe enough? Down's syndrome? Spina Bifida? Or, maybe the parents wanted a boy, so is being a girl a deformity?
- **Many prenatal tests for handicaps are not accurate**. Countless children have been born perfectly normal after their parents were notified of a deformity.
- As a society, **we are hypocritical in our attitude towards handicapped children**. On the one hand we promote Special Olympics, March of Dimes, United Way, telethons, etc., to assist handicapped children. Yet, if we discover the child has a handicap while still in the womb, then we want to destroy the child. **Why doesn't our desire to eliminate handicapped children apply to those already born?** Because, handicapped children are often happy, always precious, and usually delighted to be alive!
- The adverse **psychological effects of abortion are significantly more traumatic** for those who abort because of deformity.
- **There are many couples wanting to adopt a child – even a handicapped child**. Wendy's, the hamburger restaurant, has an adoption network with a *waiting list* for children with a handicap.

Finally, each of us is perfect in the eyes of God, because God does not make mistakes and He creates us in His image. Again, ***"God does not love us because we are valuable. We are valuable because God loves us."***



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