

“I know this issue is very controversial. But unless and until it can be proven that an unborn child is not a human being, can we justify assuming without proof that it isn’t? No one has yet offered such proof; indeed, all the evidence is to the contrary. We should rise above bitterness and reproach, and if Americans could come together in a spirit of understanding and helping, then we could find positive solutions to the tragedy of abortion.”

- President Ronald Reagan, 1984¹

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“The attack on life doesn't begin in the womb. It begins in the minds of people.”

-Ron Galloy

Glossary:

"What an irony that a society confronted with plastic bags filled with the remains of aborted babies should be more concerned about the problem of recycling the plastic."

- Winifred Egan²

Abortion:

The termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus: a: spontaneous expulsion of a human fetus during the first 12 weeks of gestation³

Conception:

Union of male sperm and female ovum; fertilization⁴

Curettage:

A surgical scraping or cleaning by means of a curette³

Curette:

A surgical instrument that has a scoop or loop at the tip and is used in performing curettage³

Embryo:

The developing human individual from the time of implantation to the end of the eighth week after conception³

Fetus:

Normally used to describe a developing human from two months after conception to birth³

Infanticide:

The killing of an infant³

Planned Parenthood:

The collective name of organizations worldwide that are members of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). The Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is the U.S. affiliate of IPPF and one of its larger members. PPFA provides "reproductive health" and maternal and child health services. The organization's status as the United States' leading provider of surgical abortions has put it in the forefront of national debate over that issue. Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Inc. (PPAF) is a related organization that lobbies the U.S. political system for pro-abortion legislation, comprehensive sex education, and access to affordable health care.⁵

Pregnancy Reduction (Selective Reduction):

Typically referred to in cases of multi-fetal pregnancy, when one or more fetuses are aborted to preserve the viability of the remaining fetuses and decrease health risks to the mother⁵

Prenatal Homicide:

The intentional destruction of an unborn human in the mother's womb.

Roe v. Wade:

410 U.S. 113 (1973) is a controversial United States Supreme Court case that resulted in a landmark decision regarding abortion.[1] According to the *Roe* decision, most laws against abortion in the United States violated a constitutional right to privacy under the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision effectively overturned all state and federal laws outlawing or restricting abortion that were inconsistent with its holdings. *Roe v. Wade* is one of the most controversial and politically significant cases in U.S. Supreme Court history. Its lesser-known companion case, *Doe v. Bolton*, was decided at the same time.⁶

Therapeutic Abortion:

Abortion induced when pregnancy constitutes a threat to the physical or mental health of the mother.³ *Note: What the law constitutes as being a “threat to the mental health of the mother” can even include reasons such as a woman not wanting to work to care for her child. In other words, “therapeutic” abortions may occur for the mother’s personal convenience.

Trimester:

A time period of about three months; especially any of three periods of approximately three months each into which a human pregnancy is divided⁵

Zygote:

The result of the sperm successfully fertilizing the ovum. The zygote is a single cell that contains the genetic material of both the mother and the father³

“If we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people to not kill each other? Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.”

- Mother Teresa⁷

Types of Abortions:

Dilation and Curettage:

A medical procedure in which the uterine cervix is dilated and a curette is inserted into the uterus to scrape away tissue (as for the diagnosis or treatment of abnormal bleeding) or for surgical abortion during the early part of the second trimester of pregnancy— also called D&C.⁵

Dilation and Evacuation:

A surgical abortion that is typically performed midway during the second trimester of pregnancy and in which the uterine cervix is dilated and “fetal tissue” (i.e. the baby) is removed using surgical instruments (such as forceps and a curette) and suction— also called D&E.⁵

87% of abortions are performed using this method.³²

Dilation and Extraction:

A surgical abortion that is typically performed during the third trimester or later part of the second trimester of pregnancy and in which the uterine cervix is dilated and death of the fetus is induced after it has passed partway through the birth canal— also called D&X, or partial-birth abortion.⁵

Partial Birth Abortion:

This procedure is used to abort women who are 20 to 32 weeks pregnant, or even later into pregnancy. Guided by ultrasound, the abortionist reaches into the uterus, grabs the unborn baby’s leg or arm with forceps, and pulls the baby into the birth canal, except for the head, which is deliberately kept just inside the womb. (At this point in a partial-birth abortion, the baby is alive.) Then the abortionist jams scissors or a sharp implement into the back of the baby’s skull and spreads the tips of the scissors apart to enlarge the wound. After removing the scissors, a suction catheter is inserted into the skull and the baby’s brains are sucked out. The collapsed head and the rest of the baby are then removed from the uterus.⁸

RU486 (Mifepristone):

Anti-progesterone drug used, in combination with a prostaglandin, to procure early abortion (up to the tenth week in pregnancy). It is administered only in hospitals or recognized clinics and a success rate of 95% is claimed.⁵

Saline Amniocentesis:

Otherwise known as "salting out," or a "hypertonic saline" abortion, this technique is used after 16 weeks of pregnancy, when enough fluid has accumulated in the amniotic fluid sac surrounding the baby. A needle is inserted through the mother’s abdomen and 50-250 ml (as much as a cup) of amniotic fluid is withdrawn and replaced with a solution of concentrated salt. The baby breathes in, swallowing the salt, and is poisoned. The chemical solution also causes painful burning and deterioration of the baby’s skin. Usually, after about an hour, the child dies. The mother goes into labor about 33 to 35 hours after instillation and delivers a dead, burned, and shriveled baby. About 97% of mothers deliver their dead babies within 72 hours.⁸

Vacuum Aspiration:

A method of abortion performed during the first trimester, in which the contents of the uterus are withdrawn through a narrow tube. Also called *suction curettage*, *vacuum curettage*⁵

Statistics:

Number of abortions per year: 1.21 Million (2005)¹⁰

Number of abortions per day: Approximately 3,700⁹

Since the instituting of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, there have been:

53+ MILLION ABORTIONS

In 2005 (the most recent year for which there is reliable data), approximately **1.21 million abortions** took place in the U.S., down from an estimated 1.29 million in 2002, 1.31 million in 2000 and 1.36 million in 1996. From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions have occurred in the U.S.¹⁰

Nearly half of pregnancies among American women are unintended; about 4 in 10 of these are terminated by abortion. **Twenty-two percent of all U.S. pregnancies end in abortion.**¹⁰

Reasons why women decided to have an abortion...

1% of all abortions reportedly occur because of rape or incest; 6% of abortions occur because of potential health problems regarding either the mother or child, and **93% of all abortions occur for social reasons (i.e. the child is unwanted or inconvenient).**

Breakdown of Social Reasons:

- Three-fourths of women cite concern for responsibility to other individuals
- Three-fourths say they cannot afford a child
- Three-fourths say that having a baby would interfere with work, school or the ability to care for dependents
- Half say they do not want to be a single parent or are having problems with their husband or partner.¹⁰

Roe v. Wade legalizes abortions up until the third trimester (28 weeks) when the fetus is deemed “viable”, *UNLESS* the mother is attempting to preserve her health. One example from *Roe v. Wade* of what may be considered harmful to a mother's health is: “**the work of caring for a child**”. This essentially makes it possible for a legal abortion to be obtained at any point in pregnancy.¹¹ In the 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* case, the Supreme Court went even further in diminishing the parameters which *Roe v. Wade* had put in place regarding the viability of a fetus, by establishing the “undue burden” rule. Under this clause, an “undue burden” is defined as a “substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking the abortion of a nonviable fetus.” With this ruling no state laws, even those that may be put in place to protect the unborn child, may come between the mother and her “right” to an abortion.

"...Is it surprising that today we have become so morally blind (for wickedness blinds) that we save the baby whales at great cost, and murder millions of unborn children?"

- Alice von Hildebrand, “The Privilege of Being a Woman”¹

Who is Having Abortions?

Race:

- While white women obtain 60% of all abortions, their abortion rate is well below that of minority women. Black women are more than 3 times as likely as white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are roughly 2 times as likely.¹⁰
- According to the most recent census data, black women make up 12.3% of the female population in America, but account for 37% of all U.S. abortions. Hispanic women account for 22% of all U.S. abortions, though they make up just 12.5% of the female population. Non-Hispanic, white women, who make up 62.6% of America's female population, account for only 34% of all U.S. abortions.¹⁰

Age:

- 50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25; women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all U.S. abortions and teenagers obtain 17%.¹⁰
- Adolescents under 15 years obtained less than 1% of all abortions, but have the *highest abortion ratio*, 773 abortions for every 1,000 live births.¹²

Marital Status:

- At least 80% of all abortions are performed on unmarried women.¹²
- The abortion ratio for unmarried women is 510 abortions for every 1,000 live births. For married women it is 61 abortions for every 1,000 live births.¹⁰

Economic Status:

- Women with family incomes less than \$15,000 obtain 28.7% of all abortions; women with family incomes between \$15,000 and \$29,999 obtain 19.5%; women with family incomes between \$30,000 and \$59,999 obtain 38.0%; women with family incomes over \$60,000 obtain 13.8%.⁹

Religion:

- Women identifying themselves as Protestants obtain 43% of all abortions, Catholic women account for 27%, Jewish women account for 1.3%, women with no religious affiliation obtain 23.7%, and 18% are performed on women who identify themselves as "Born-again/Evangelical".⁹

Frequency:

- 47% of women who have abortions had at least one previous abortion.³²

Ultrasound Legislation

According to President Obama “no one is pro-abortion,” while much of the abortion funding and restriction repeals that have passed under him are evidence to the contrary. Many state legislatures have made it a priority to lower the number of abortions. In the state of Georgia alone, teen pregnancies cost over \$113 million a year in tax dollars. This statistic, allocated on a national scale where one third of American women will have an abortion by the time they are forty- five,¹³ provides further perspective on how costly abortions are to U.S. taxpayers. Georgia legislators found these facts startling, as did other states, which led them to enact bills such as House Bill 147¹⁴, which requires that pregnant females undergo an ultrasound or sonogram before having an abortion. Representative James Mills, who introduced the legislation, believed that it would help women to make a more informed decision before having an abortion. Additional states including Indiana, Michigan, Florida, and Texas have already ratified similar laws.

Not every state is as supportive of the new ultrasound legislation, and some have taken legal action against it. In Louisiana, abortion advocates such as the Center for Reproductive Rights filed a lawsuit against the state in response to the bill. They argued that the ultrasound law would be “detrimental to the patients’ emotional well-being and relationship with their healthcare provider.” In August 2010, U.S. Louisiana District Judge Ralph Tyson sided with the new legislation, allowing women to see their ultrasound before an abortion¹⁵.

There are many legal and practical constraints on the procedure that should make anyone cautious when considering an abortion. As a medical procedure, it is excluded from public funding; it is unavailable to military personnel and their dependants; abortion facilities, providers, and patients are subject to unprecedented regulation; it is a common medical procedure not routinely taught in medical schools; and lastly it is a procedure for which doctors and pharmacists are able to decline service.¹⁶ This reality should be alarming to someone considering an abortion.

Some studies report that up to 90% of women choose not to have an abortion after seeing an ultrasound.¹⁷ However, there is one blatantly clear instance where this law had an effect. After seeing an ultrasound, Abby Johnson, the director of Planned Parenthood in Bryan, Texas, left her position to join a pro-life organization.¹⁸ Even if this was the only case where the law made a difference, any difference at all is significant when trying to save lives.

When an expectant mother can see an image of her baby living inside her, it is difficult to deny the reality that it is a living, breathing baby. Ultrasound is one of the most effective ways to inform a woman about the personhood of her child.

Through statistical research, there are differing opinions of whether ultrasound laws make a difference in a woman’s choice to abort her child. However, these laws have made one thing

clear: there is either a lack of understanding or perhaps simply a lack of human empathy in many abortion cases. Many women do not think of the child they are aborting as human at all. One woman named Carmen, who has had two abortions in three years, said “You almost have to think of it as an alien.”¹⁹ Even if you are not of the opinion that life starts at conception as a scientific fact, or that DNA is indicative of a human being, it is a proven scientific fact that at the moment of conception when a sperm and egg meet, a zygote is formed. That single cell has the same DNA structure as a fully formed adult human. Carrie Gordon Earll, a Focus on the Family spokeswoman, said that “to be able to put a face on that baby humanizes the process [of abortion]... Ultrasound is one of the ultimate examples of informed consent because you are seeing what you are giving permission to happen.”²⁰

Stages of Pregnancy ^{4 21 22}

Fertilization	Fertilization normally takes place within one day of intercourse, but can occur up to six days later. At fertilization, the genetic composition of a preborn human is formed. This genetic information determines gender, eye color, hair color, facial features, and influences characteristics such as intelligence and personality.
1 st Month (Embryo)	Vital organs are forming and signs of the brain and the beginning of the spine are evident.
5 Weeks	Heart begins to beat and circulate blood, arm and leg buds emerge. Brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are established, and brain waves can be detected.
6 Weeks	Digestive system, eyes, and ears are forming, and arms and legs continue to grow.
7 Weeks	The umbilical cord joins the embryo to the placenta. Long bones and internal organs are developing. The forebrain has now split into two halves, making up the cerebral hemispheres.
2 nd Month (Fetus)	Human face, fingers, toes, elbows, knees, eyelids and bone cells are forming.
12 Weeks	Fingers and toes are moving; teeth buds are present and the kidney and bladder form. Baby is 2-4" long and weighs an ounce or two.
16 Weeks	Baby moves and kicks, sleeps and wakes, swallows; hair forms, digestion becomes active. Sex determination possible.
18 Weeks	Spurt in baby's growth; internal organs are maturing; hair, eyebrows and lashes are present; baby increases storage of iron.
24 Weeks	Baby's skin is wrinkled; brain looks like mature brain, respiratory movements may begin to occur.
28 Weeks	Most rapid growth; red and wrinkled; eyelids can open and close; baby storing large amounts of calcium and iron.
32 Weeks	Weight gain and rapid growth; settles in favorite position; valuable fat increases.
36 Weeks	Baby gains 1/2 pound per week; bones of head are soft and flexible; baby has developed immunities.
Birth (38 –40 Weeks)	Organs developed; respiratory system is mature.

Key Cases Involving the Legalization of Abortion:

***Roe v. Wade* (1973)**

Facts of the Case:

A Texas woman, under the name of Jane Roe in order to protect her identity, sought to terminate her pregnancy by abortion. Texas law prohibited abortions except to save a pregnant woman's life. After granting certiorari, the Court heard arguments twice. The first time, Roe's attorney – Sarah Weddington – could not locate the constitutional hook of her argument for Justice Potter Stewart. Her opponent – Jay Floyd – misfired from the start. Weddington sharpened her constitutional argument in the second round. Her new opponent – Robert Flowers – came under strong questioning from Justices Potter Stewart and Thurgood Marshall.

Question:

Does the Constitution embrace a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy by abortion?

Conclusion:

The Court held that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy (recognized in *Griswold v. Connecticut*) protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester and defined different levels of state interest for the second and third trimesters. As a result, the laws of 46 states were affected by the Court's ruling.²³

***Doe v. Bolton* (1973):**

Summary:

Doe v. Bolton is the companion case for *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark Supreme Court case that established a “substantive due process” right to abortion. In *Roe*, Justice Harry Blackmun wrote that *Roe* and *Doe* “are to be read together.” In this 7-2 opinion by Justice Blackmun, the Court elaborated on the “health exception” established in *Roe*. In cases where an abortion is necessary in order to preserve the life or health of the mother, the state must permit an abortion even after viability. According to the majority, the doctor’s medical judgment as to the health of the mother may be “exercised in the light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age—relevant to the wellbeing of the patient.”²⁴

Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992)

Facts of the Case:

The Pennsylvania legislature amended its abortion control law in 1988 and 1989. Among the new provisions, the law required informed consent and a 24-hour waiting period prior to the procedure. A minor seeking an abortion required the consent of one parent (the law allows for a judicial bypass procedure). A married woman seeking an abortion had to indicate that she notified her husband of her intention to abort the fetus. Several abortion clinics and physicians challenged these provisions. A federal appeals court upheld all the provisions except for the husband notification requirement.

Question:

Can a state require women who want an abortion to obtain informed consent, wait 24 hours, and, if minors, obtain parental consent, without violating their right to abortions as guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade*?

Conclusion:

In a bitter, 5-to-4 decision, the Court again reaffirmed the basic holding of *Roe*, but it upheld most of the Pennsylvania provisions. For the first time, the Justices imposed a new standard to determine the validity of laws restricting abortions. The new standard asks whether a state abortion regulation has the purpose or effect of imposing an "undue burden," which is defined as a "substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability." Under this standard, the only provision to fail the undue-burden test was the husband notification requirement. The opinion for the Court was unique: The plurality opinion was crafted and authored by only three justices.²³

Overruling of the *Dred Scott v. Sanford* Decision:

Summary:

In 1857 the United States Supreme Court ruled that Dred Scott, an African-American who sued for his freedom, was to be denied his U. S. citizenship because he was a former slave even though he had been living on free soil for some time. The Supreme Court also ruled that Congress could not stop slavery in the newly forming territories, declaring the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which prohibited slavery parallel to the Louisiana Purchase, unconstitutional. The ruling reversed the rights of African-Americans, ignoring the fact that black men in five of the original States had already been full voting citizens dating back to the Declaration of Independence in 1776.²⁵

Thankfully this Supreme Court decision is not still in effect today. With the addition of the Fourteenth Amendment, adopted after the Civil War in 1868, a broad definition of citizenship was provided and therefore the "Dred Scott decision" was overruled.

The overruling of *Dred Scott* can give hope to a future overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. Just as the nation came to realize the importance of freedom and rights to all citizens, regardless of color, in the unconstitutional decision it made in 1857, there is hope that one day they will also realize the rights of the children, regardless of their age, and reverse the unconstitutional decision of 1973.

Health Risks Associated With Abortion:

"In medical practice, there are few surgical procedures given so little attention and so underrated in its potential hazards as abortion. It is a commonly held view that complications are inevitable."

- Dr. Warren Hern, world-renowned *abortionist*³⁰

Physical Health Risks:

Breast Cancer

Women who have experienced an abortion have significantly higher rates of breast cancer later in life. Breast cancer has risen by 50% in America since abortion became legal in 1973.²⁶

Ectopic (Tubal) Pregnancy

An ectopic pregnancy is any pregnancy that occurs outside the uterus. After an abortion, you are 8 to 20 times more likely to have an ectopic pregnancy. If not discovered soon enough, an ectopic pregnancy ruptures, and you can bleed to death if you do not have emergency surgery. Statistics show a 30% increased risk of ectopic pregnancy after one abortion and a 160% increased risk of ectopic pregnancy after two or more abortions. There has been a threefold increase in ectopic pregnancies in the U.S. since abortion was legalized. In 1970, the incidence was 4.8 per 1,000 live births. By 1980 it was 14.5 per 1,000 births.²⁶

Effects on Future Pregnancies

If you have an abortion:

- (1) You will be more likely to bleed in the first three months of future pregnancies.
- (2) You will be less likely to have a normal delivery in future pregnancies.
- (3) Your next baby will be twice as likely to die in the first few months of life.
- (4) Your next baby will be three to four times as likely to die in the last months of his first year of life.
- (5) Your next baby may have a low birth weight.
- (6) Your next baby is more likely to be born prematurely with all the dangerous and costly problems that entails.²⁶

Becoming Sterile

After an abortion you may become sterile. This happens in roughly 30% of women. The risk of secondary infertility among women with at least one abortion is 3 to 4 times greater than that among women who have not aborted.²⁶

Sexual Dysfunction

Thirty to fifty percent of aborted women also report experiencing sexual dysfunctions, of both short and long duration, beginning immediately after their abortions. These problems may include one or more of the following: loss of pleasure from intercourse, increased pain, an aversion to sex and/or males in general, or the development of a promiscuous life-style.²⁶

Mental Health Risks:

Post Abortion Syndrome (PAS):

Professional counselors who have worked with women who have had abortions recognize a cluster of reactions that fit the model of someone experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a psychological dysfunction resulting from a traumatic experience. This can overwhelm a person's normal healthy defense mechanisms. Some of the symptoms professionals have found to be typical in women after an abortion experience are: Intense fear, anxiety, sense of helplessness, feeling of loss of control, emotional numbing, difficulty recalling event, guilt, pain, grief, depression, irritability, angry outbursts, aggressive behavior, sleep difficulties, sexual dysfunction, flashbacks, nightmares, anniversary reactions, withdrawal from relationships, avoidance of children, pessimism regarding future, drug and/or alcohol abuse, and suicidal thoughts.⁸

The number of post-abortive women that report chronic episodes of depression: 44%, drug use: 19%, promiscuous activity: 43%, alcohol abuse: 60%. These rates are far above the general population. Suicide rates for women overall is 11.3 per 100,000. Suicide rates for post-abortive women are 34.7 per 100,000.²⁷

In a study of post-abortion patients only 8 weeks after their abortion, researchers found that 44% complained of nervous disorders, 36% had experienced sleep disturbances, 31% had regrets about their decision, and 11% had been prescribed psychotropic medicine by their family doctor. Women who have had abortions are significantly more likely than others to subsequently require admission to a psychiatric hospital. At especially high risk are teenagers, separated or divorced women, and women with a history of more than one abortion.²⁶

***Note:**

In spite of all this research and scientific evidence, an "Abortion Services" page on Planned Parenthood's website claims: Abortion DOES NOT cause premature birth, birth defects, low infant birth weight, or an increase in the chance of infant death in future pregnancies.

However: A 2007 paper in *The Journal of Reproductive Medicine* cites 59 studies that exhibit a statistically significant association between abortion and the risk of premature births in subsequent pregnancies. In five of the largest and more recent of these studies, all found increases in premature births before 32 weeks gestation in women who had an abortion. All of these studies have also found that this risk escalates when more than one abortion has been performed. Children born before 32 weeks gestation are at increased risks for early death, cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness and other health complications.¹¹

Frequently Asked Questions About Abortion:

When does human life begin?

According to standard biology books used even in public schools: "Human development begins at fertilization, the process during which a male gamete or sperm unites with a female gamete or oocyte (ovum) to form a single cell called a zygote. This highly specialized, totipotent cell marked the beginning of each of us as a unique individual." (pg. 16), "A zygote is the beginning of a new human being (i.e., an embryo)." (pg. 2).²⁸

After how many weeks of development is a baby able to survive outside the mother's womb?

Previously, babies born less than 28 weeks gestation often did not survive. With medical advances in special care baby units, it has been known that babies of 22 weeks gestation have survived, although this is still very rare. Extremely premature babies have an increased risk of disability, even with the best care. It is generally thought that 24 weeks in many hospitals is the cut off point for active resuscitation, unless baby shows signs of life at birth.²⁹

When does the unborn baby's heart begin to beat?

The heartbeat begins on the 21st day after conception.²⁶

When does the baby's brain begin to function?

Electrical brain waves have been recorded as early as forty days.²⁶

When do most abortions occur?

88% of all abortions happen during the first trimester, prior to the 13th week.¹⁰ *EVEN THOUGH* at just 9 Weeks after Fertilization: More than 90% of the body structures found in a full-grown human are present. The baby is able to move body parts without any outside stimulation.¹¹

What does the Bible say about abortion?

Although the specific word "abortion" does not appear in the Bible, it does discuss when life begins, the value of human life, and that the taking of an innocent human life is a sin. Consider Psalm 139:13-16, "*For you [God] created me in my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to me.*" Psalm 106 also mentions God's anger over a nation that had been disobedient, and had shed the blood of the innocent, "*They mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. They worshipped their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan and the land was desecrated by their blood*" (Ps. 106:35-38).

Agenda of Planned Parenthood:

"The doctors would remove the fetus ... and then lay it on the table, where it would squirm until it died ... They all had perfect forms and shapes. I couldn't take it, no nurse could."

- Former Planned Parenthood Director
American Medical News, July 12, 1993³⁰

Planned Parenthood Federation for America's (PPFA) website says this on their "About Us" page: "We are a trusted health care provider, an informed educator, a passionate advocate, and a global partner helping similar organizations around the world. Planned Parenthood delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education, and information to millions of women, men, and young people worldwide."³¹ Don't let the name fool you though; "parenthood" is least on their list of priorities. According to Planned Parenthood's 2007-08 Annual Report there were nearly 28 abortion patients for every one patient receiving prenatal care, abortions outnumbered adoption referrals by a greater than 62 to 1 margin, and there were only 318 infertility patients, or less than one infertility patient for every 2.7 clinics that PPFA operates.⁸

The Political Agenda

Planned Parenthood is perhaps the nation's largest advocate for abortion in state and federal legislatures, challenging "right to know" laws, parental involvement laws, partial-birth abortion bans, and demanding taxpayer funding of abortion.⁸

Targeting Minorities

The majority of Planned Parenthood's abortion clinics are located in communities with minority populations that exceed the respective city or state averages. Is this an odd coincidence, or is it a possible extension of the eugenic principles that seem to have driven Planned Parenthood's founder, Margaret Sanger, who is documented as saying, "We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population." This statement, written in a 1939 letter to a colleague, can be taken in one of two ways: Either she didn't want the black community to *wrongly* assume that her efforts promoting birth control were an attempt to eliminate them, *or* she didn't want the black community to find out that this is exactly what she had in mind. Planned Parenthood assumes the first while her opponents assume the latter. But upon looking at the greater context of her writings, the truth likely lies in between. It is possible that she did not have in mind the elimination of all blacks, but it is quite reasonable to infer that she did want to limit their population.

The bottom line is this: Margaret Sanger's vision of social purification was rooted in birth control and sterilization. Compared with abortion, these were minor threats to minority communities. Planned Parenthood's contemporary vision of social purification is much more menacing. No longer is the organization driven by pregnancy prevention, it is now driven by *pregnancy elimination*. We can debate the racial intent of Planned Parenthood past and present, but we cannot debate the results. Abortion is by no means an equal opportunity killer.³² (See p.7)

Steps to Taking Pro-Life Action:

Now that you know the facts regarding the tragedy of abortion in our country, it is important to take a stand against this atrocious act of killing our innocent unborn. No doubt the founding fathers of this nation would be appalled at what our government has not only allowed, but also funded. In fact Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying, *"The chief purpose of government is to protect life. Abandon that and you have abandoned all."* Let us not abandon those who cannot yet defend themselves. Let us stand up for their choice to live.

Simple tips and resources to help you get involved:

- Pray for those who have been affected by abortion, and for our nation as a whole
- Educate yourself in advocating for life
 - Approach your church and encourage the opportunity to educate teens on the personhood of the unborn
- Find and support organizations in your state that are involved in the Pro-Life movement
- Organize a rally with other Pro-life organizations
 - Create signs to wave on the side of the road
- Vote on Election Day for candidates who are Pro-life
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper or magazine for publication
- Write your local or state Senators and inform them of your stance on life
 - Congress.org is a great way to contact your Representative
- Join or Create Facebook groups and invite others
- Volunteer at a local crisis pregnancy center
- Assist a sidewalk counseling group outside an abortion clinic
- Educate yourself on adoption alternatives, and seek God's will about the possibility of adopting a child of your own
- Support or start a "personhood" effort in your community

The key is to stay informed, and to stay actively involved. Discuss the facts with your family and friends and inform your pastors and local government of the importance of taking a stand for the sanctity of human life.

¹ www.prolifequotes.blogspot.com

² www.webparish.com/prolife/documents/QuotesFamousPeople

³ www.merriam-webster.com

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