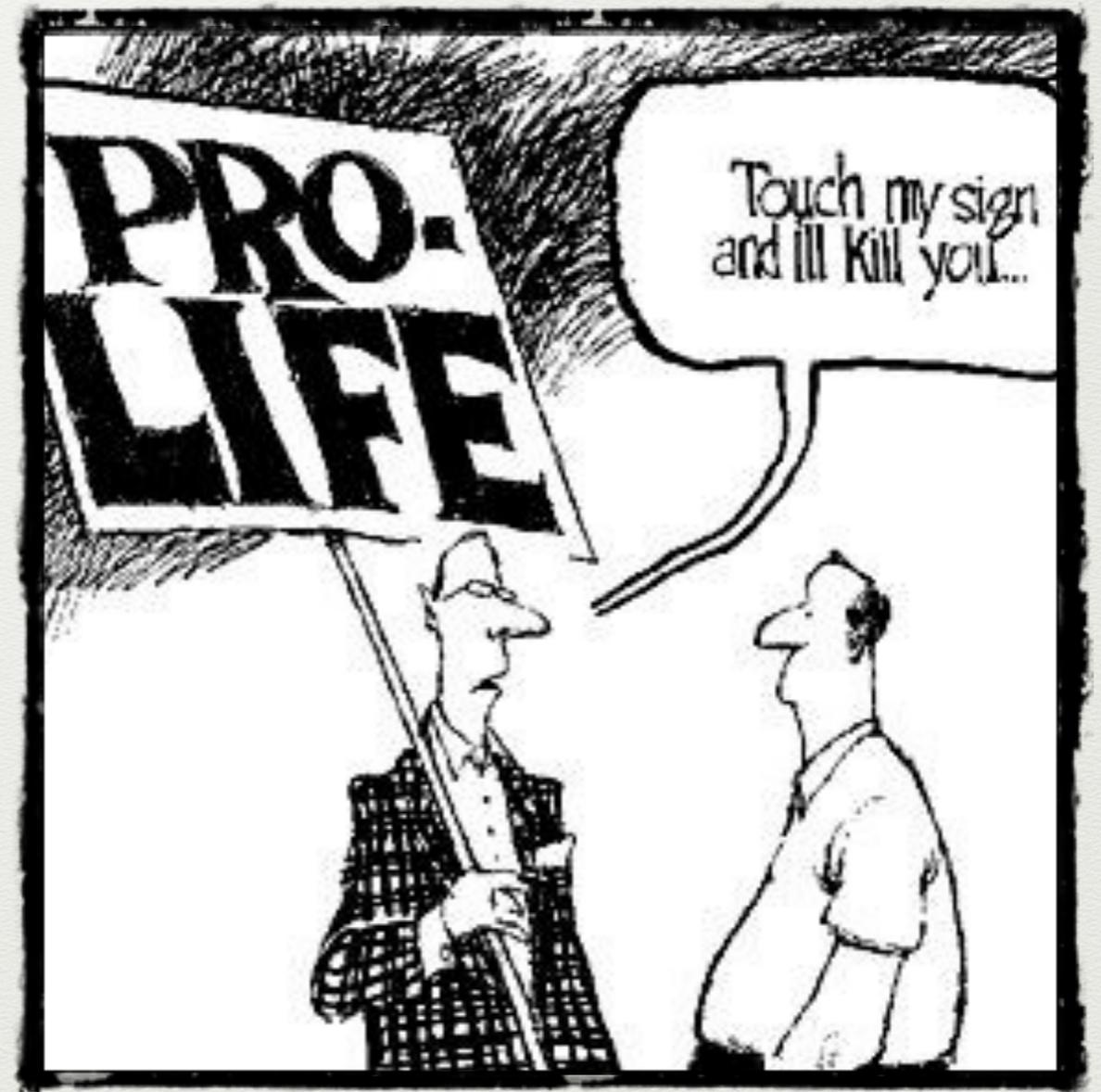


ABORTION

Making the Case for the Unborn

Remember our Tactics

- Abortion is a *very* sensitive topic that many people are very passionate about on both sides of the issue.
- Pro-Choicers talk of *Liberty*.
- Pro-Lifers talk of *Life*.
- We must remember our Tactics and keep our cool in talking about Abortion.



Common Pro-Choice Questions and Arguments

- “Shouldn’t a woman be able to choose whether or not she’s ready for a child?”
- “Aren’t ‘pro-lifers’ really ‘anti-choice’?”
- “How can *anyone* tell me what to do with *my body*?”
- “Wouldn’t outlawing abortion simply make the situation *more dangerous* for those seeking abortions since they would turn to back alley abortions?”
- “What if the child has a terrible life because the parents are not financially equipped?”
- “How can you force a woman to have a baby?”
- “What if the child will be handicapped?”
- “What if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest?”

What's the Real Issue?

- I'm going to argue that *all* of those questions are really irrelevant until we ask a more fundamental question regarding the issue of abortion.
- That question is “*what is the unborn?*”
- In fact, all of the questions we looked at assume something about the unborn without proving it.

What's the Real Issue?

- It's really easy to see that *if the unborn is not a person* then the questions above aren't even needed. *If the unborn is not a person **any reason or no reason at all*** is sufficient for an abortion.
- If the “thing” inside of the womb is nothing more than a lifeless lump of cells, like a wart or a mole, then everyone should be pro-choice with no exceptions. Warts and moles are just lumps of cells growing on a person's body and there is no one opposing that you can get those medically removed if you choose. Just as we don't know of anyone who is pro-warts or pro-moles, we shouldn't know anyone who is pro-life if the “thing” inside the womb is not a person.

What's the Real Issue?

However, if the unborn is a person, ***no reason justifies an abortion.***

Understand that in almost every objection to the pro-life movement, the questioner *assumes* the unborn are not persons.

One by One

- *“Shouldn’t a woman be able to choose whether or not she’s ready for a child?”*
- This question assumes that there is not *already a child in the womb* of the one seeking an abortion. Ready or not, the child is already there.

One by One

- *“Aren’t ‘pro-lifers’ really ‘anti-choice’?”*
- Surely not, pro-lifers are actually pro-choice on job employment, where people live, religious beliefs, university choice. What pro-lifers *are* anti-choice about is the unjustified taking of the life of the unborn, but the pro-choice advocate here assumes that abortion is not taking the life of a living child.
- Would anyone say a woman ought to have a choice to shoot her 2-year old?

One by One

- *“How can anyone tell me what to do with my body?”*
- This question assumes the unborn is not a separate entity or life than the woman, again, presupposing the unborn is not a distinct person with rights of their own.
- No one has complete autonomy over their body.

One by One

- *“Wouldn’t outlawing abortion simply make the situation more dangerous for those seeking abortions since they would turn to back-alley abortions?”*
- This presupposes that the unborn aren't persons because if the unborn is a person, the questioner is saying we should make it easier to kill unborn persons, because if we don't, it will be more dangerous for those seeking abortions to kill their children.
- You wouldn't change the laws for murderers because they're “going to do it anyway, so we should make it safe so they don't get hurt trying.”

One by One

- *“What if the child has a terrible life because the parents are not financially equipped?”*
- This question assumes that the unborn isn't a person, because if the questioner was faced with a 2-year old, who had poor parents, they would not advocate shooting the 2-year old.
- The only reason the thought is even contemplated is because of a presupposition about the unborn.

One by One

- *“How can you force a woman to have a baby?”*
- This question again, presupposes that the unborn is not already a baby or a person inside the womb.
- Pro-lifers think that mothers should mother their children. The law already “forces” mothers (or parents who adopt) to care for their children, to think otherwise about a pregnant woman in relation to the unborn is to assume the unborn is not a person.

One by One

- *“What if the child will be handicapped”*
- This question assumes that the unborn aren't already “children” inside the womb. Notice the words “will be”.
- No person would advocate shooting a 2-year old child with a handicap would they? Of course not. So the person is assuming the unborn is not already a person.

One by One

- *“What if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest?”*
- Would the questioner advocate killing a child who is already born if they were the result of a rape or an incestuous relationship?
- Of course not—because they believe they are persons, which is not what they are believing when they ask the question.

Now that the Smoke is Cleared...

- Once we demonstrate that the unborn is a person, those questions simply answer themselves because they are put in proper perspective.
- In fact, once we demonstrate that the unborn is a person, the questions seem barbaric. We only need to add the words “should we murder the baby if.... (insert question or statement)” and it becomes clear.

The Nagging Question

- *Is the unborn a child?*
- “It is the penetration of the ovum by a spermatozoan and resultant mingling of the nuclear material that each brings to the union that constitutes the culmination of the process of fertilization and marks the initiation of the life of a new individual.” - Bradley M. Patten, *Human Embryology*, 3rd ed., New York: McGraw Hill, 1968, page 43.
- All quotes derived from: Klusendorf, Scott. “Case For Life - Only One Issue.” *The Case for Life*, 2016, www.caseforlife.com/evidence.html.

The Nagging Question

- “Every time a sperm cell and ovum unite a new being is created which is alive and will continue to live unless its death is brought about by some specific condition.” —E. L. Potter and J. M. Craig, *Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant*, 3rd ed., Chicago: Year Book Medical Publishers, 1975, page vii.
- “The beginning of a single human life is from a biological point of view a simple and straightforward matter - the beginning is conception.” —Subcommittee on Separation of Powers to Senate Judiciary Committee S-158, Report, 97th Congress, 1st Session, 1981.
- All quotes derived from: Klusendorf, Scott. “Case For Life - Only One Issue.” *The Case for Life*, 2016, www.caseforlife.com/evidence.html.

The Nagging Question

- A 1981 U.S. Senate report states, “Physicians, biologists, and other scientists agree that conception marks the beginning of the life of a human being - a being that is alive and is a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in countless medical, biological, and scientific writings.” -Subcommittee on Separation of Powers, Ibid.

- All quotes derived from: Klusendorf, Scott. “Case For Life - Only One Issue.” *The Case for Life*, 2016, www.caseforlife.com/evidence.html.

Yet Another Roadblock

- Believe it or not, some will still put their foot down and make the claim “Yes, at conception, the unborn are human, but they’re not yet *persons!* Therefore, they simply have no rights unto themselves, including the right to life.”
- What do we make of this claim?

S. L. E. D.

- Scott Klusendorf has a handy acronym (**SLED**) for memorizing the 4 basic differences between the unborn and a child living outside of the womb.
 1. **Size**
 2. **Level of Development**
 3. **Environment**
 4. **Degree of Dependency**

Size

- Does the size of a human determine have any impact on whether they are a person or not?
- Is a larger human more of a person than a smaller one?
- If not, why would it be the case for the unborn?



Level of Development

- “True, embryos and fetuses are less developed than you and I. But again, why is this relevant?”
 - Four year-old girls are less developed than 14 year-old ones. Should older children have more rights than their younger siblings?
 - Some people say that self-awareness makes one valuable. But if that is true, newborns do not qualify as valuable human beings. Six-week old infants lack the immediate capacity for performing human mental functions, as do the reversibly comatose, the sleeping, and those with Alzheimer's Disease.”

Environment

- “Where you are has no bearing on who you are. Does your value change when you cross the street or roll over in bed?”
- If not, how can a journey of eight inches down the birth-canal suddenly change the essential nature of the unborn from non-valuable tissue mass to valuable human being?
- If the unborn are not already human and valuable, merely changing their location can't make them so.”

• All quotes derived from: Klusendorf, Scott. “Case For Life - Only One Issue.” *The Case for Life*, 2016, www.caseforlife.com/sled.html.

Degree of Dependency

- “If viability bestows human value, then all those who depend on insulin or kidney medication are not valuable and we may kill them.”
- “Conjoined twins who share blood type and bodily systems also have no right to life.”
- Also, what about people like Paul Alexander?

• All quotes derived from: Klusendorf, Scott. “Case For Life - Only One Issue.” *The Case for Life*, 2016, www.caseforlife.com/sled.html.



The Unborn is a Person

- Since the unborn do not differ in any substantial way that impacts personhood, it follows that the unborn are persons.
- Since the unborn are persons and life begins at conception, then the unborn are persons at the moment of conception.
- Since the unborn are persons at the moment of conception, the unborn have basic human rights at that moment.

