

*The following is the graduate work paper for Jennifer Ferguson's Social Policy class. Jenny is my niece, and I felt this would be excellent material for our web site.*

## **Abortion: Wrong on All Fronts**

If I were to stand before you this morning to report that the entire combined populations of the cities of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Diego and Dallas had been annihilated by a series of directed terrorist attacks, we would all be understandably shaken, with tears flowing down our cheeks, and uncontrollable sobbing pouring out from our hearts. Church assemblies would be packed, with people praying to God for hope and guidance, and the Congress of the United States would be seen on the steps of the Capital Building singing *God Bless America*. And yet as tragic as these acts of terror would be, the number of deaths **combined** in the cities of the United States with a population of a million or more citizens would still be less than **half** of the number estimated of innocent babies who have been slaughtered in their mother's womb ever since *Roe v. Wade* became the law of the land 37 years ago on January 22, 1973.

The Wise Writer stated in Proverbs 14:34 [ESV], "***Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.***" Since that infamous Supreme Court ruling, abortion has been a national disgrace for this nation as estimates place the number of abortions performed since then at over 50,000,000.

Someone, somewhere in our world today aborted a child. This should break our hearts, but it breaks the heart of God even more. That child was not simply an unviable piece of tissue. That was a child, a person whom God loves. We rightly grieve at the high abortion rate in our land, but it is also just as true that our loving God grieves at the high cost of abortion to a hurting girl. There will be hurt, both now and later and as long as that girl or woman lives. The trauma and pain that abortion brings has devastated many a young woman, and will continue to do so.

But while we grieve the loss of a precious child, we rest in the comfort that he or she is with the Lord. We should dedicate a moment or two each day to the memory of those aborted children who were never given the opportunity to see the light of day. None of them will ever get to know the touch of a mother's hand. There will be no preschool, no Little League Baseball or Youth League Basketball games, and there will be no birthday parties or eating out at Chuck E. Cheese's. But there is one thing we can celebrate. Each one of those precious souls is at peace throughout eternity with Jesus Christ their Lord.

It was refreshing to learn this past week that in our neighboring state of Iowa there is pending legislation that seeks to recognize legally that life begins at the moment of conception.

From a legal perspective, this should be a no-brainer, for abortion is clearly unconstitutional. The Preamble to the United States Constitution is a brief introductory declaration of the fundamental purposes and guiding principles behind the Constitution itself. Courts have referred to it as reliable evidence of the intentions of the Founding Fathers regarding the Constitution's meaning and what they hoped it would achieve. The Preamble of the United States Constitution states,

*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

According to the Preamble, the blessings of liberty ordained and established in the Constitution of the United States are bestowed upon the Founding Fathers **and their posterity**. Posterity is in reference to future, *unborn* generations. By definition, then, according to the Constitution the unborn are protected by the Constitution. Our Constitution recognizes that life begins in the womb and it should be protected, which is what this proposed law states.

Since the Constitution in the Preamble recognizes life in the womb, then all subsequent rights granted and protected therein are recognized, too. This means that the child in the womb is protected by the Bill of Rights and any subsequent applicable Amendments. Abortion, then, is a direct violation of Amendment 6, which states,

*The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.*

Additionally, abortion is a direct violation of Amendment 7:

*No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.*

The Due Process clause of this Amendment is never met in the case of abortion, and by definition abortion deprives the child of his or her life.

Abortion also is a direct violation of Section 1 of the 14th Amendment:

*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.*

Once again, abortion denies the person of his or her life in violation of the due process of law and it denies the equal protection of the laws to those who are living in the womb.

According to the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers recognized that all rights, liberties and freedoms derive from the Creator. Paragraph two of the Declaration states,

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.*

Our Founding Fathers understood that life began at conception by their choosing to state in the Declaration "*all men are created equal.*" They did not limit this to those who were born, but to **everyone** who is created. The unborn child in the womb is part of those who have been created.

Our Founding Fathers also readily acknowledge the existence of a Creator. But it is not just any Creator they recognized, it was and is the Creator God Yahweh of the Judeo-Christian heritage. It is the Creator Yahweh of the Bible from Whom all unalienable rights derive. They do not come from man nor do they derive from government. Among the foundation of basic human rights extended to all of mankind are *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*. Abortion deprives the person of each of these basic rights bestowed upon him or her by God, and violates the Declaration of Independence itself.

Since it is self-evident that our Founding Fathers believed all rights derived from God, it would be prudent to see what His word tells us about the yet to be born residing in the womb. God spoke to the Prophet Jeremiah, saying, "***Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.***" (Jeremiah 1:5 [ESV])

The Apostle Paul, speaking through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, acknowledges in Galatians 1:15 [ESV] that God called him and set Paul apart while he was still in the womb when he writes, ***“But when He Who had set me apart before I was born, and Who called me by His grace.”***

The Prophet Isaiah spoke to the people of Israel and quoted God as telling them, ***“Thus says the LORD Who made you, Who formed you from the womb and will help you”*** (Isaiah 44:2 [ESV]). God says we as humans are formed in the womb.

Finally, let us examine a couple of passages from the *Book of Job*. Job 10:8-12 [New Century Version] says, ***10You formed me inside my mother like cheese formed from milk. 11You dressed me with skin and flesh; You sewed me together with bones and muscles. 12You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in Your care You watched over my life.*** It is in the womb that God is said to have formed, created and loved life.

Finally, Job 31:15 (ESV) says, ***“Did not He Who made me in the womb make him? And did not One fashion us in the womb?”*** Once again, the Creator is said to fashion and give us life in the womb. This is the same Creator our Founding Fathers referenced when writing the Declaration of Independence, the same Creator from Whom they stated the basic rights of *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness* derive.

Because man is made in God’s own image (Genesis 1:27), each life is of great value to God. ***“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward,”*** we are told in Psalm 127:3 (ESV). God even calls our children His own: ***20And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter 21that you slaughtered My children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?*** (Ezekiel 16:20-21 [ESV])

The Bible says of our Creator, the very same Creator Whom our Founding Fathers revered, ***“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind”*** (Job 12:10 [ESV]). God, the grantor of life, commands us not to take the life of an innocent person. A child in the womb is the most innocent of all: ***5For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, 6if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, 25 Cursed be anyone who takes a bribe to shed innocent blood. 13You shall not murder.*** (Jeremiah 7:5-6; Deuteronomy 27:25; and Exodus 20:13 [ESV]). According to God’s word, abortion is murder: ***“because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great.”*** (Jeremiah 20:17 [ESV]) Our Creator, the very same Creator cited by our Founding Fathers, also vowed to avenge those who were murdered in the womb:

***“For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border.”*** (Amos 1:13 [ESV])

According to the Law of Moses from which the Ten Commandments are found, the same Ten Commandments which adorn the walls of the United States Supreme Court, the unborn child still in the womb of its mother was granted equal protection. Moses wrote in Exodus 21:22-25 [ESV], ***22When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out, but there is no harm, the one who hit her shall surely be fined, as the woman’s husband shall impose on him, and he shall pay as the judges determine. 23But if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life, 24eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.***

Life is created by God, the Creator from Whom all unalienable rights of *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness* derive, the Creator in Whom the Founding Fathers based our nation’s founding documents. Life is a great gift from God our Creator, and we should protect it as the gift from Him it is.

#### **Additional thoughts:**

Since life begins at conception, abortion is akin to murder as it is the act of taking human life. Abortion is in direct defiance of the commonly accepted idea of the sanctity of human life.

No civilized society permits one human intentionally to harm or take the life of another human without punishment, and abortion is no different.

Adoption is a viable alternative to abortion and accomplishes the same result. And with 1.5 million American families wanting to adopt a child, there is no such thing as an unwanted child.

An abortion can result in medical complications later in life; the risk of ectopic pregnancies doubles, and the chance of a miscarriage and pelvic inflammatory disease also increases.

In the instance of rape and incest, proper medical care can ensure that a woman will not get pregnant. Abortion punishes the unborn child who committed no crime; instead, it is the perpetrator who should be punished.

Abortion should not be used as another form of contraception.

For women who demand complete control of their body, control should include preventing the risk of unwanted pregnancy through the responsible use of

contraception or, if that is not possible, through abstinence, which never fails when practiced.

Many Americans who pay taxes are opposed to abortion. Therefore it is morally wrong to use tax dollars to fund abortion.

Those who choose abortions are often minors or young women with insufficient life experience to understand fully what they are doing. Many have lifelong regrets afterwards.

Abortion frequently causes intense psychological pain and stress.

According to an article in *Psychology Today* in 1998, a 32-week old fetus can feel, dream and even enjoy listening to *The Cat in the Hat*. 32 weeks into the gestation period is considered two months shy of when a baby is considered fully prepared for the world, or "at term," and yet this baby at 32 weeks is behaving almost exactly as a newborn baby who comes to full term some 12 weeks later. (Janet L. Hopson, "Fetal Psychology," *Psychology Today*, September/October 1998, Volume 31, Number 5, pp. 44-48; 78) According to this article, *"Along with the ability to feel, see, and hear, comes the capacity to learn and remember. These activities can be rudimentary, automatic, even biochemical. For example, a fetus, after an initial reaction of alarm, eventually stops responding to a repeated loud noise. The fetus displays the same kind of primitive learning, known as habituation, in response to its mother's voice, Fifer has found."* (Janet L. Hopson, "Fetal Psychology," *Psychology Today*, September/October 1998, Volume 31, Number 5, pp. 44-48; 78) Dr. William Fifer holds a PhD in psychiatry and currently heads the Fetal/Infant Development Lab at Columbia University.

Finally, according to Dr. Fritz Baumgartner, scientist, physician and surgeon, *"There is no more pivotal moment in the subsequent growth and development of a human being than when 23 chromosomes of the father join with 23 chromosomes of the mother to form a unique, 46-chromosome individual, with a gender, who had previously simply not existed. Period. No debate."* (Dr. Fritz Baumgartner, "Life Begins at the Beginning," *Pro-Life America*, April 12, 2005 [http://www.prolife.com/life\\_begins.html](http://www.prolife.com/life_begins.html)) Dr. Baumgartner states unequivocally from a scientific perspective that life begins at conception.

Dr. Baumgartner further points out that all physicians who engage in the performance of abortion are violating their Hippocratic Oath. He then quoted from the Oath the following: *"I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion. With purity and holiness I will pass my life and practice my art."* As Dr. Baumgartner rightfully concludes, *"The Hippocratic Oath, explicitly and implicitly, eliminates abortion as an option."* (Dr. Fritz Baumgartner, "Life Begins at the Beginning," *Pro-Life America*, April 12, 2005 [http://www.prolife.com/life\\_begins.html](http://www.prolife.com/life_begins.html))

We have demonstrated that Constitutionally, scientifically, and most importantly, morally, abortion is wrong for it is the murder of the most innocent of all of God's creation, the innocent child in its mother's womb. This is why I support this proposed legislation, and I am prayerfully seeking God's assistance in helping the people of Iowa pass this legislation.