

A Study of Abortion

By Allen Dvorak

Introduction:

- I. Inside of one week, Americans will observe two significant anniversaries:
 - A. January 22nd of this next year (2016) will mark the 43rd anniversary of the court case *Roe v. Wade* (1973).
 - B. January 27th of this next year (2016) will mark the 71st anniversary of the liberation of the inmates of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz (1945).
- II. The two days are not unrelated.
 - A. In the first half of the 20th century, Nazi Germany committed horrific atrocities against various groups in an action known as the holocaust.
 1. Estimates are that 6 million Jews were murdered. Many of them were executed and buried in mass graves; the bodies of many were disposed of by means of crematoriums.
 2. The Jews, however, were not the only victims. The Nazis carried out organized campaigns against other groups such as gypsies, Slavs, homosexuals, etc. Estimates suggest that more than 5 million people were murdered among these groups.
 3. Many people are not aware that the exterminations began with the handicapped, described as “useless eaters.”
 4. The sad truth is that most of the world looked the other way while some of this was going on.
 - B. “America is slowly dying of a holocaust of abortion that began with Roe vs. Wade.”¹
 1. It wasn’t James Dobson who said this. It was the woman known in the courtroom in 1973 as “Jane Roe” (whose real name is Norma McCorvey).
 2. Since the historic *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision (1973), it is estimated that over 50 million babies have been slaughtered in our country -- truly another holocaust. Current U.S. population is estimated at 319 million (2014).
 3. On the world scene, it is estimated that there are 1.2 million abortions each month.²
 4. “Finally, we have a senator [referring to Barbara Boxer, California Democrat – asd] who thinks we should not play doctor when the very doctors she thinks are so qualified are emulating those who performed experiments in Nazi concentration camps. Begrudgingly, I have come to the conclusion that, as the 20th century draws to a close, we have not ensured that another holocaust will never happen again. We have only ensured that the victims of this latest holocaust won’t be able to make their voices heard, because they are too young to talk.”³
 5. The sad truth is that many Christians are looking the other way while this current holocaust is going on. They have decided that abortion is “an individual matter or

¹ Nathan Burchfiel, *Norma McCorvey (Roe) Laments “Holocaust of Abortion”*, CNSNews.Com, 1/19/05.

² www.johnstonsarchive.net

³ Maricarol Miller (Earleville, Maryland), Letter to the Editor; *The Washington Times*, Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 1999.

choice,” they can’t do anything to stop it or have simply decided that it is not their battle.

III. Purpose:

- A. Briefly summarize some information that is probably common knowledge for us.
 1. Methods of induced abortions
 2. Biblical arguments against abortion
- B. Note some defenses made on behalf of abortion (in light of the “education” action step).
- C. Focus on the opportunity that partial birth abortion has presented the pro-life movement.
- D. Motivate us to be bold and active in opposing abortion.

Body:

I. **Summary of Common Knowledge**

- A. Methods of induced abortion
 1. Suction aspiration (vacuum curettage)
 2. Dilatation and Curettage (D & C; after 12 weeks it is called Dilatation and Evacuation)
 3. Drug-induced method
 - a. RU 486 (“the French abortion pill”)/prostaglandin
 - b. Methotrexate
 - c. Prostaglandins are sometimes used during the second trimester; injected into the amniotic sac, they produce violent labor which the young child is usually unable to survive.
 4. Dilatation (dilation) and Evacuation (D & E)
 5. Salt Poisoning (saline amniocentesis)
 6. Hysterotomy
 7. Partial Birth Abortions (sometimes called D & X [dilation and extraction] or IDE [“intact D & E”])
 8. Conclusion: abortion is a violent act.
- B. A summary of fetal development during pregnancy is available from many sources.
- C. The Bible addresses the subject of “abortion” in an indirect way.
 1. Note the provision of the Mosaic Law for a premature birth caused by human violence (Exodus 21:22-25). Observe, however, the differences in translations of verse 22:
 - a. (NKJV) “If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges *determine*.”
 - b. (NASB) “And *if* men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she has a miscarriage, yet there is no *further* injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman's husband may demand of him; and he shall pay as the judges *decide*.”
 2. The Bible condemns murder, the premeditated killing of an innocent human being.

- a. Romans 1:29; 1 John 3:15; Revelation 21:8; Proverbs 6:16-17
 - b. According to the Old Testament, the taking of a human life brought serious consequences (Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 21:12-14) because man was created in the image of God.
 - c. If an unborn baby constitutes an innocent human being, then killing that child is murder!
3. The Scriptures use the same Greek word (*brephos*) for the baby in the womb and the infant who has been born (Luke 1:41; 2:16). Notice further translations of the word:
 - a. babe - Luke 2:12; 1 Peter 2:2
 - b. child - 2 Timothy 3:15
 - c. infant - Luke 18:15
 - d. young child - Acts 7:19
 4. The argument is also made that God recognized Jeremiah as a person prior to his birth (Jeremiah 1:5).

II. In Defense of Abortion (Common Arguments Stated & Refuted)

A. *“Abortion is not actually the taking of a human life.”*

1. Question: “Do you believe life begins at conception?” Dr. Ryan: “Biological life, yes. Human beings, no.” Question: “But do you agree that life begins at conception?” Dr. Ryan: “There is no question that a cell is living. But life is one thing and when it should be considered HUMAN is not a scientific question. It is philosophical, moral and theological.”⁴
2. “The onset of individual life is not a dogma of the church but a fact of science. How much more convenient if we lived in the thirteenth century, when no one knew anything about microbiology and arguments about the onset of life were legitimate...Nowadays it is not some misguided ecclesiastics who are trying to suppress an embarrassing scientific fact. It is the secular juridical-journalistic establishment.” Dr. Walker Percy⁵
3. Dr. A.W. Liley, world renowned Research Professor in Perinatal Physiology, has stated *“biologically at no stage of development can we subscribe to the view that the unborn child is a mere appendage of the mother. Genetically, the mother and the baby are separate individuals from conception.”*
4. Chromosomatic makeup is what determines whether one is a human or a dog, cat, etc.
 - a. The fertilized egg cell is not identical in chromosomatic content to either the mother or the father. The unborn child may not even be the same sex as the mother and may have a different blood type!
 - b. If form is the criteria, some severely deformed children would not be defined as human.
5. “It's a religious issue, too, because there are different religious views as to when life begins. It would be a serious violation of the First Amendment to allow the dogma of

⁴ Dr. George Ryan, in testimony before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearing on the human life bill; quoted by Ann Landers (9/8/81)

⁵ quoted by George Will, *Newsweek*, AThe Case of the Unborn Patient, @ 6/22/81, p. 92.

one religion to be written into secular laws that govern the lives of people with different religious views. And clearly it is a medical issue.”⁶

6. CSI (popular television program) foolishness:
 - a. In one program, character Gil Grissom observes that “the life is in the blood”, according to the Bible. His comment was evidently meant to suggest that the fetus is not alive until there is blood present.
 - b. On another program, character Katherine Willows quotes the medieval Catholic pope’s position that life didn’t exist in the womb until the mother could feel movement on the part of the fetus.

B. *“The unborn child has no soul.”*

1. “Traditional religions all over the earth have considered a baby — whether born or not — to become a human being when its soul enters the body. In some cultures this is believed to occur a little prior to birth — in others it does not happen until sometime after birth. But until the little body has a soul it is of no interest to the Creator (or to its parents) since it is not yet a person, and a baby which dies without a soul is not mourned... Modern faith-based ‘pro-lifers’ instead accept the scientific understanding of a fetus as a developing human being — an understanding which ignores the soul entirely — and confuse biogenesis with incarnation. To consider a fetus a human being is to elevate faithless science and demean the very notion of incarnation which is at the root of all religious traditions and spiritual philosophies.”⁷
2. Consider James 2:26 with regard to the question of when the soul enters the body.

C. *“Every woman should have control over her own body.”*

1. On January 28, 1988 Canada's law prohibiting abortion on demand was struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada. Speaking of this decision, Katherine Coffin, national vice-president of the Canadian Abortion Right Action League, said: *“I cannot tell you when I have had a happier day. It asserts what women have saying for 20 years: that the decision whether to bear a child is a fundamental human right.”*⁸
2. Like many others, Ms. Coffin has missed the point. It is not whether a woman should decide whether to bear a child or not--it is whether any woman or man has the right to take an innocent human life!
3. The argument is that she should have the right to determine whether she will bear a child or not. Agreed! Those women who don’t want to bear a child should abstain from sexual relations.
4. It is also argued that abortion must be permitted because of the constitutional right to privacy.
5. “We are told that we should not interfere with abortion. We are told that we may not ‘impose our morality’ on those who wish to allow or participate in the taking of the life of infants before birth; yet no one calls it ‘imposing morality’ to prohibit the taking of life after people are born. We are told as well that there exists a ‘right’ to end

⁶ Karen Mulhauser, *U.S. News and World Report*, 5/4/81, p. 32.

⁷ Robert Riversong, Letter to the Editor – “Soul is one indicator of life,” *Rutland Herald*, Rutland, Vermont; 1/28/05.

⁸ Maclean’s, February 8, 1988.

the lives of unborn children; yet no one can explain how such a right can exist in stark contradiction of each person's fundamental right to life.”⁹

6. Abortion kills the unborn child whose body is separate from that of the mother.

D. *The unfortunate situation of women pregnant as a result of rape or incest*

1. The cause of the pregnancy doesn't change the fact that abortion is the taking of an innocent human life.
2. "...the killing of an innocent human life is not an equal trade-off for the emotional and physical damage from the crime of rape or incest. The fetus has committed no crime.”¹⁰
3. According to the Law of Moses, children were not to be put to death because of their fathers (Deuteronomy 24:16). Is this not exactly what is happening in the case of the abortion of a child resulting from the crime of rape?

E. *“Women will have abortions, one way (legalized) or another (illegal).”*

1. “Consistent experience has been that when abortion is legalized, the legal abortion rate skyrockets; the illegal abortion rate does not drop, but also frequently rises. The reason consistently given is the relative lack of privacy of the official procedures.”¹¹
2. The claim that illegal abortions were responsible for the deaths of thousands of women is untrue.¹²

F. *“Abortion prevents child abuse by reducing the number of unwanted children.”*

1. 90% of battered children are planned pregnancies (Dr. Edward Lenoski; University of Southern California).
2. “In one recent year, there were 800,000 couples in the U.S. cleared and waiting to adopt but only 100,000 babies available to be placed. Because of abortion, the shortage of babies to adopt is so acute they are now being bought and sold in America on a 'black market.'”

G. *“Abortion is more cost efficient than taking care of welfare or handicapped babies.”*

1. “If...abortions are made illegal, it means at least another 700,000 babies will be born next year. A substantial percentage will be born to the poor and the very young -- about two-thirds of whom will collect welfare. Instead of a single cost of \$125 for an abortion, we will pay \$1,000 to \$1,500 for a delivery and at least \$100,000 to support these welfare children until they reach maturity. This is a commitment of about 40 billion dollars every year.”¹³
2. The same argument could be made about the aged also!

H. “A woman's body is assaulted by the fetus.” (These points taken from a review of the book entitled Breaking the Abortion Deadlock by Eileen McDonagh)

1. McDonagh had discovered that “the fetus is the cause of pregnancy.”

⁹ Ronald Reagan, 1/19/88, in a proclamation of National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

¹⁰ Henry Hyde, *U.S. News and World Report*, 5/4/81, p. 31.

¹¹ *Induced Abortion: A Documented Report*, p. 32.

¹² John Lippis, The Challenge To Be “Pro-Life,” p. 15.

¹³ Dr. George Ryan, in testimony before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee hearing on the human life bill; quoted by Ann Landers (9/8/81)

2. “The central issue then becomes what the fetus, as an active agent, does to a woman's body during pregnancy, whether that pregnancy is wanted or not. McDonagh graphically describes the massive changes produced by the fetus when it takes over a woman's body.”
3. “Abortion, therefore, does not rest on the intensely debated principle, stated in *Roe*, that women have a right to be free from state interference when choosing privately what to do with their own bodies. Instead, as McDonagh’s book explains, abortion rights flow inevitably from women’s more established right to consent to what another agent does to their body. Specifically, women have a right to resist an unwanted intrusion by a fetus as well as to receive help from the state to stop such an intrusion.”
4. The point of this argument is to portray the woman as the victim, rather than the baby who is killed. Abortion becomes self-defense!

III. **Partial Birth Abortion: Horror and Opportunity**

- A. Illustration: Sometimes tall buildings skip the number “13” as floors are labeled, due to the superstition of some people. Nevertheless, the floor above the 12th floor is the 13th floor, regardless of what some might want to call it! ¹⁴
- B. Pro-abortion groups employ euphemistic terminology to distract the American public from the truth of what happens in an abortion.
 1. “Termination of pregnancy” rather than “the poisoning, mutilation or shedding of pre-born babies”
 2. “Fetus,” “embryo,” “product of conception,” “unborn entity” or “fetal tissue” rather than “baby”
 3. “Woman” rather than “mother”
 4. “Pro-choice” rather than “pro-abortion”
- C. Illustration: Crisis pregnancy centers are using sonograms to convince pregnant women not to have an abortion. With just counseling alone, 70% of women are convinced to abandon the idea of abortion; with sonograms, 90% of women are convinced. ¹⁵
- D. Never has the euphemistic smokescreen been more necessary than with the practice of partial birth abortion.
 1. Partial Birth Abortions (sometimes called D & X [dilation and extraction] or IDE [“intact D & E”])
 - a. The infant is delivered feet-first into the birth canal, except for the head which is deliberately kept inside the womb.
 - b. Scissors are inserted into the back of the baby's skull and spread to enlarge the wound.
 - c. The scissors are removed, a suction catheter is inserted and the baby's brains are sucked out. The collapsed head is then removed from the uterus.
 - d. This procedure is used to abort babies of 20-32 weeks and designed to avoid the “complication” of a live birth. Babies born at 23 weeks or more often survive.

¹⁴ Jean Staker Garton, *Who Broke the Baby?*, p. 14-15.

¹⁵ Neela Banerjee, Abortion opponents find powerful ally in ultrasound, *The New York Times*, 2/2/05.

2. Note the following comments regarding partial birth abortion:
 - a. “I believe that Mr. Clinton was misled by his medical advisors on what is fact and what is fiction in reference to late-term abortions. Because in no way can I twist my mind to see that the late-term abortions as described -- you know, partial-birth, and then destruction of the unborn child before the head is born -- is a medical necessity for the mother. It certainly can't be a necessity for the baby. So I am opposed to... partial birth abortions.”¹⁶
 - b. [Note: President Clinton vetoed in 1999 a bill passed by Congress which would have imposed a national ban on partial birth abortions.]
 - c. “It is this combination of coming so close to delivering a live child with the death of the fetus by reducing the size of the skull that not only distinguishes D & X from D& E medically, but also causes the adverse public (and legislative) reaction. Opponents deem the D & X procedure needlessly cruel and bordering on infanticide.”¹⁷
 - d. “Pro-choice activists categorically insist that only 500 of the 1.5 million abortions performed each year in this country involve the partial-birth method, in which a live fetus is pulled part way into the birth canal before it is aborted...But interviews with physicians who use the method reveal that in New Jersey alone, at least 1,500 partial-birth abortions are performed each year -- three times the supposed national rate. Moreover, doctors say only a 'minuscule amount' are for medical reasons.”¹⁸
 - e. “Congress, the public -- but most importantly women -- need to know that partial-birth abortion is never medically indicated to protect a mother's health or her future fertility. On the contrary, this procedure -- which has never been evaluated in mainstream, peer reviewed literature -- can pose a significant threat to both her immediate health and future fertility... We, and many other doctors across the United States, regularly treat women whose unborn children suffer these and other serious conditions. Never is the partial-birth procedure medically indicated. Rather, such infants are regularly and safely delivered live, vaginally, with no threat to the mother's health or fertility. Sometimes, as with hydrocephalus, it is first necessary to drain some of the fluid from the baby's head. And in some cases, a cesarean section is indicated. In no case is it medically necessary to partly deliver the child vaginally, and then terminate his or her life before completing the delivery.”¹⁹
3. It is noteworthy that about 35 states have passed laws banning partial birth abortions, evidence that even some pro-abortion people are uncomfortable with the clear nature of this type of brutality. Such laws, of course, have been struck down by the Supreme Court.

IV. What Can We Do?

¹⁶ C. Everett Koop, world-renowned pediatric surgeon and former Surgeon General of the United States, interview with *American Medical News*; 8/19/96.

¹⁷ Court opinion written by Circuit Judge Frank H. Easterbrook, 10/26/99

¹⁸ Ruth Padawer, “The facts on partial-birth abortion,” *The Sunday Record* (Bergen County, NJ), September 15, 1996.

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¹⁹ Physicians' Ad Hoc Coalition for Truth (PHACT), coalition of more than 230 physicians, mostly professors and other specialists in obstetrics, gynecology, and fetal medicine

- A. We must not employ immoral methods as we against the evil of abortion.
 - 1. Remember the false charge against Paul: “Let us do evil that good may come” - Romans 3:8. Paul condemned such reasoning.
 - 2. Examples of immoral methods: bombing of abortion clinics, shooting of doctors who perform abortions, etc.
 - 3. We must not return evil for evil (Romans 12:17-21).
- B. I believe that public opinion will ultimately be the deciding factor in the defeat of abortion.
 - 1. I am not minimizing the importance of appointing pro-life judges on the Supreme Court and thus the importance of the recent presidential election.
 - 2. “But I wonder how many abortion foes are as prescient as the Democrats in anticipating such a judicial ruling. I wonder how many realize that if Roe were overturned tomorrow, abortion would not instantly become illegal. We would suddenly have a patchwork of 50 different state laws regarding abortion. The legal status of the procedure would be thrown back to where it should have been all along: the democratic process.”²⁰
- C. Winning the war against abortion will necessitate educating the American public about the true nature of abortion.
 - 1. Norma McCorvey became an opponent of abortion because she worked in abortion clinics in the 1990s and “began to see the abuse of abortion...saw women crying.”²¹ She came to the conclusion that abortion hurts women.
 - 2. There are some Christians who are uncomfortable with any discussion of abortion in sermons, Bible classes, etc. It is too emotional, too disturbing, etc.
 - 3. Naturally, common sense should be used in our teaching, but we must take the mask off of the face of abortion.
- D. What can we do specifically?
 - 1. Teach others that human life is sacred...and abortion is the taking of innocent human life.
 - 2. Make our voices heard in schools, newspapers, among acquaintances, but especially in our families.
 - 3. We can vote for those political candidates who oppose abortion and support their campaigns. Abortion is first a moral issue, but also a political issue.

Conclusion:

- I. “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 that equal protection of the laws.” (14th Amendment to the Constitution)
- II. The worst thing that we can do is “be silent.”

²⁰ Tom Neven, *Democrats shift position on abortion*, DenverPost.Com, 2/1/05.

²¹ Burchfiel, op. cit.