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## Should it be "Choice" or "Life"?

**Psalms 139:13** (NKJV) *"For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."*

I think that everyone I have ever met loves the sight of a new baby. We all are struck by how small, helpless and innocent the child is. We are struck by the beauty and intricacy of its form and we are struck by the complete and utter helplessness of its being. Yes, everyone loves the sight of a new baby...yet, 1.2 million pregnancies are terminated in this country each year. That means that these pregnancies are stopped and the child is never allowed to be - all of this on purpose! So, how do we understand the rights, the processes and the legalities here? Is it a moral issue, this question of abortion, or is it merely a legal question of convenience? Today we look into this incredibly difficult issue - should it be choice or life? What does the Bible say?

### Questions for Consideration:

1. Is abortion a moral or legal issue?

2. What Biblical principles can be applied to this issue?

1. Is abortion a moral or legal issue?

(Source: [www.abortionfacts.com](http://www.abortionfacts.com) - selected quotes)

I am Pro-Choice. I am not one person, but many. Here is what I believe:

- The fetus is not a human, just a mass of tissue
- Abortion is safe
- Every child should be a wanted child.
- The number of abortions is relatively small.
- Nobody has the right to impose their morals on me.
- A woman should be able to control her own body.
- Abortion must be kept legal, especially for all the rape and incest pregnancies.
- If abortion is outlawed women will be forced to go to back-alley abortion clinics.
- Aborting unwanted children reduces the number of abused children.

**These Scriptures show a clear life value before birth:**

Luke 1:41-42 Isaiah 49:1 Jeremiah 1:4-5 Luke 1:15 Galatians 1:15-16

**Aside from Scripture, let's look at the science of the matter:**

(Source: [www.abortionfacts.com](http://www.abortionfacts.com))

**Milestones of Early Life:** At no time in your life does more growth and change occur than in the first nine months before birth. Here are the amazing milestones of that time in your life:

**Day 1:** Conception: Of the 200,000,000 sperm that try to penetrate the mother's egg cell, only one succeeds. The first cell soon divides in two. Each of these new cells divides again and again as they travel toward the womb in search of a protected place to grow.

**Day 6-14:** The new individual at first attaches loosely to the wall of the womb, then burrows deeply and attaches securely to it over the next week. Sensitive pregnancy tests can now show positive, but this depends on the level of hormone produced by the new life. By the end of the second week, the mother's menstrual period is suppressed by this hormone (hCG) which is produced by her child.

**Day 17:** Blood vessels begin to form. Remarkably, the future sex cells that will give rise to sperm or eggs for a new generation begin to group together - only 17 days after this new life is alive itself.

**Day 18-20:** The foundations of the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are laid.

**Day 21:** The heart begins to beat, unsurely at first, gaining strength day by day. The heart beats 70 times per minute at first, reaching a maximum of 170-190 at seven weeks, and slowing

a bit to 160-180 at 9 weeks. A day later the eyes begin to develop. The earliest stages of the ears are now present.

**Day 26-27:** The lungs now begin to form.

**Day 28-32:** Two tiny arms make their appearance and budding legs follow two days later. The beginnings of the mouth take shape. The nose starts to develop. The thyroid gland begins to grow. Blood flows in the baby's veins but stays separate from the mother's blood. The tongue now begins to form. The face now makes its first appearance.

**It is around this time that most women find out that they are pregnant!**

**Day 36:** The baby's eyes develop their first color in the retina.

**Day 40:** The baby makes her first reflex movements. Touching around the mouth with a fine bristle causes her to flex her neck.

**Day 41:** The fingers begin to form, followed by the toes a few days later.

**Day 42:** The baby develops nerve connections that will lead to a sense of smell. The brain is now divided into 3 parts - one to experience emotion and understand language, one for hearing and one for seeing. Joints begin to form.

**Day 44:** Buds of milk teeth appear. Facial muscles develop. Eyelids begin to form, protecting the developing eyes. Elbows take shape. Internal organs are present, but immature. 99% of muscles are present; each with its own nerve supply. Electrical activity is detectable in brain.

**Day 52:** Spontaneous movement begins. The baby then develops a whole collection of moves over the next four weeks including hiccupping, frowning, squinting, furrowing the brow, pursing the lips, moving individual arms and legs, head turning, touching the face, breathing (without air), stretching, opening the mouth, yawning, and sucking.



**8 Weeks:** The baby is now well-proportioned, and about the size of a thumb. Every organ is present. The liver is making blood, the kidneys function, and the heart beats steadily. The skull, elbows, and knees are forming. Of the 4500 structures in the adult body, 4000 are already present. The skeleton of the arms and legs and the spine begins to stiffen as bone cells are added.

**9 Weeks:** If prodded, the baby's eyelids and hands close. Genitalia that were forming in the seventh week now become visible, indicating whether it's a boy or girl. However, the doctor won't be able to tell by ultrasound until the twelfth to twentieth week. Early muscular movements begin. The thyroid gland turns on.

**10 Weeks:** Fingerprints begin their seven-week long formation. The fingernails begin to develop. The eyelids now fuse together until month seven, protecting the delicate eyes. The number of connections between nerves and muscles has tripled since last week.

**11 Weeks:** The baby now "practices" breathing, since she will have to breathe air immediately after birth. The baby urinates. Her stomach muscles can now contract. Vocal chords and taste buds form. She can make complex facial expressions and even smile.

**12 Weeks:** Fine hair begins to grow on the upper lip and chin and eyebrows. The baby swallows and responds to skin stimulation.

**13 Weeks:** The face is prettier, and facial expressions may resemble the parents'. The baby is active, but mom doesn't feel anything yet.

**15 Weeks:** A wild production of nerve cells begins and continues for a month. A second surge will occur at 25 weeks.





**4 Months:** Nostrils and toenails become visible. The baby may suck her thumb, turn somersaults and has a firm grip. The ovaries of girls contain beginnings of eggs. She begins to develop sleeping habits. At about 4 ½ months she is able to experience pain.

**5 Months:** The testes descend in boys. Mom may feel the baby kick, turn or hiccup and may be able to identify a bulge as an elbow or head. Each side of the brain has a billion nerve cells now.

**6 Months:** The baby will be able to hear by next week. The child sleeps and wakes, nestling in her favorite positions to sleep, and stretches upon waking up.

**7 Months:** The eyelids begin to reopen, preparing to see the outside world. Eyelashes have now become well developed.

**8 Months:** Skin becomes pink and smooth. The pupils of eye respond to light. Fingernails reach to the tip of the finger. The baby is really getting cramped now.

**9.5 Months:** The child triggers labor and birth occurs, an average of 264-270 days after conception.

And not until the baby has gone through all these events on the inside can we see the new child on the outside.

Scriptures and science show value and individuality long before birth! This is far different than the "mass of tissue" idea.

#### The account of the prophesied birth of Sampson:

Judges 13:3-7: This text shows us the sacredness of pregnancy and helps us understand that what the mother does while pregnant will affect the unborn child. Again, we see value in the unborn. They are not some mass of cells, but they are a developing personality. It is not just the value and the completeness of the embryo that comes into play here.

## 2. What Biblical principles can be applied to this issue?

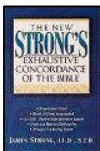
Deuteronomy 12:22-23: Life is in the blood - a mother's blood nourishes her own body - every one of her organs depends upon her blood to keep it alive. A mother's blood NEVER nourishes an embryo directly. That tiny little being DEVELOPS ITS OWN BLOOD and any mixture of the two can be deadly! So, for a woman to say that she should control her own body is technically excluding the embryo.

The program discussed **EXTREMELY GRAPHIC** abortion techniques found at [www.nrlc.org/abortion/asmf/asmf.html](http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/asmf/asmf.html)

Back to scriptural principles: First of all, the Bible does not deal directly with interference of a pregnancy as a choice of the mother. As a matter of fact, there is no scripture that implies such a choice. This in itself relays a message. There was a time when a pregnancy, however unwanted, meant coping and reaching deep down to find the strength to make it work.

#### This text comes closest to dealing with the issue:

Exodus 21:22-25: Let's look into what this text is saying - there was a consequence to interrupting the natural process of pregnancy.



**Fruit:** Strong's #3206 yeled (yeh'-led); something born, lad or offspring

**Depart:** Strong's #3318 auy yatsa' yaw-tsaw' to go out, come out, exit, go forth, to go or come out or forth, depart

The program quoted from **WHY CAN'T WE LOVE THEM BOTH** by Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke  
**CHAPTER 6 "TWO INFAMOUS DAYS IN THE U.S.A." MARCH 6, 1857 JANUARY 22, 1973**

Just because something is legal does not mean that it is good.



**Job's laments:**

Job 3:11-19: Job 10:18-19: Again - there is value in the unborn! The stillborn is buried, respected and remembered.

**Our theme text:** Psalms 139:13-16: This gives us a miraculous sense of creation of humankind. David is praising God for the miracle of life as well as giving a prophetic utterance concerning the development of the true church.



**A Final Plea...**

Sometimes life is difficult. Sometimes you may get yourself into situations, such as an unwanted pregnancy, that will ruin your plans, change your course and permanently redirect your life. Whether this pregnancy was caused by foolishness or violence, the trauma is still present. According to the law, you have choices. No matter which option you choose, you must realize that it WILL affect you for the rest of your life.

What should you do? End the pregnancy to avoid the changes and inconveniences that are sure to follow? By law, you could do that. But what are the *lasting results* of such an action? You see, we never know. Suicide, depression and guilt have been reported as possible outcomes. Worse than those difficulties, there is now a life that can no longer be lived.

Abortion is a basic moral matter. If you would be courageous and take the time to simply look at pictures of fetal development and understand the miraculous time-line of growth within the womb, the presence of precious life is undeniable. If you are very brave, you can view the barbaric, graphic and mournful results of abortion on the web.

- Don't live your life out of convenience - it will inevitably make you unhappy
- Don't live your life wishing some things did not happen - that simply destines you to relive the past, rather than embracing the present.
- Don't live your life having to hide your decisions - such actions will swallow you in guilt
- Instead - do the right thing - take full responsibility - press forward in spite of the odds.
- It is scary and it is difficult - you will be laughed at and you will miss out on lots of things.
- You will also save a life, a precious human life with untapped potential!
- In so doing, you will begin to find yourself; you will begin to find happiness, a clear conscience and a sense of well-being that can only come to those who preserve life!

Choose Life!!!

*Should it be Choice or Life?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*