



## 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:** (KJV) *"<sup>41</sup>And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: <sup>42</sup>And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb."*

**Isaiah 49:1:** (KJV) *"Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name."*

**Jeremiah 1:4-5:** (NRSV) *"<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, <sup>5</sup>'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.'"*



**Luke 1:15:** (KJV) *"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."*

**Galatians 1:15-16:** (KJV) *"<sup>15</sup>But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, <sup>16</sup>To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:"*

### 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.

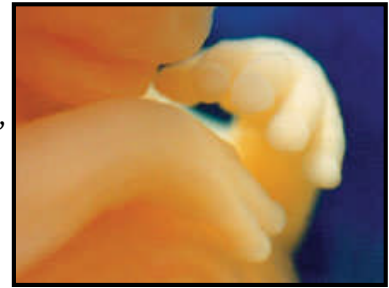
**Day 40:** The baby makes her first reflex movements. Touching around the mouth with a fine bristle causes her to flex her neck.

**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: (NRSV) *"<sup>3</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. <sup>4</sup>Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, <sup>5</sup>for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines.' <sup>6</sup>Then the woman came and told her husband, 'A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name; <sup>7</sup>but he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"*

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.



## Let's take a quick look at these issues:

(Internet Source: Unknown)

	ABORTION	ETHICAL SURGERY
Payment	Cash at door	Pay later
Pathologic exam	Seldom	Routine
Advertising	Routine	Rare
Counseling	Usually a farce	Done if needed
Second opinion	Never	If needed
Informed consent	Legally not required	Always
Record Keeping	Sketchy	In detail
Pre-op exam	Often not done until mandatory and she is on the table	Detailed
Follow-up exam	None	Mandatory and detailed
Correct Diagnosis	10-15% done on non-pregnant women	Surgeon is disciplined if he does many wrong operations
Husband's consent	Not needed	Expected
Husband informed	Not necessary	Always
Consent of parents of minor	Not needed	Legally required
Parents informed	Seldom	Legally required
Tissue disposal	In garbage	In humane and dignified manner
Burial In garbage	Yes, if large enough	In humane and dignified manner
Surgical training	Not required	Absolutely required
Non-medical reasons	99%	About 1%



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

**Deuteronomy 12:22-23:** (NKJV) *"<sup>22</sup>Just as the gazelle and the deer are eaten, so you may eat them; the unclean and the clean alike may eat them. <sup>23</sup>Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life; you may not eat the life with the meat."*

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.

### **Warning: The following is EXTREMELY GRAPHIC!**

(Source: [www.nrlc.org/abortion/asmf/asmf.html](http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/asmf/asmf.html)) Abortion Techniques

**Suction Aspiration:** Suction aspiration, or "vacuum curettage," is the abortion technique used in most first trimester abortions. A powerful suction tube with a sharp cutting edge is inserted into the womb through the dilated cervix. The suction dismembers the body of the developing baby and tears the placenta from the wall of the uterus, sucking blood, amniotic fluid, placental tissue, and fetal parts into a collection bottle.

**Dilatation (Dilation) and Curettage (D&C):** In this technique, the cervix is dilated or stretched to permit the insertion of a loop shaped steel knife. The body of the baby is cut into pieces and removed and the placenta is scraped off the uterine wall. Blood loss from D&C is greater than for suction aspiration, as is the likelihood of uterine perforation and infection.

**RU 486:** The RU 486 technique uses two powerful synthetic hormones to chemically induce abortions in women five-to-nine weeks pregnant. The RU 486 procedure requires at least three trips to the abortion facility. In the first visit, she swallows the RU 486 pills. RU 486 blocks the action of progesterone, the natural hormone vital to maintaining the rich nutrient lining of the uterus. The developing baby starves as the nutrient lining disintegrates.

**Dilatation (Dilation) and Evacuation (D&E):** Used to abort unborn children as old as 24 weeks, this method is similar to the D&C. The difference is that forceps with sharp metal jaws are used to grasp parts of the developing baby, which are then twisted and torn away. This continues until the child's entire body is removed from the womb. Because the baby's skull has often hardened to bone by this time, the skull must sometimes be compressed or crushed to facilitate removal.

**Salt Poisoning:** Otherwise known as "saline amniocentesis," "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.

**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 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 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 is then removed from the uterus.



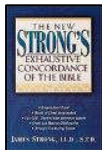
## Back to scriptural principles:

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:** (KJV) *"<sup>22</sup>If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her **fruit depart** from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. <sup>23</sup>And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, <sup>24</sup>Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup>Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."*

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

(Source: 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)

**1857:** On March 6, 1857 the U.S. Supreme Court finally decided a very vexing question which had troubled the citizens of the United States for many years. In the landmark Dred Scott Decision the court ruled once and for all that black people were not legal "persons" according to the U.S. Constitution. A slave was the property of the owner and could be bought and sold, used, or even killed by the owner at the owner's discretion. The ruling was final. It was by the highest court in the land.

Those who opposed slavery protested, but were met with the retort: "So you oppose slavery? It is against your moral, religious, and ethical convictions? Well, you don't have to own a slave, but don't impose your morality on the slave owner. He has the right to choose to own a slave. The Supreme Court has spoken. Slavery is legal." But not for long. It took a bloody civil war to stop slavery. It took the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution to legally grant freedom, civil rights, and voting rights. From a socioeconomic view, we are still striving for full equality.

**1973:** On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court finally decided a very vexing question which had troubled the citizens of the United States for many years. In a landmark Decision, the court ruled once and for all that unborn humans were not legal "persons" according to the U.S. Constitution. An unborn baby was the property of the owner (mother), and she could have the baby killed at her request because of her health (social distress). This could be done at any time until birth. The ruling was final. It was by the highest court in the land.

Those who opposed abortion protested but were met with a retort that seemed an echo of slavery days. "So you oppose abortion? It is against your moral, religious, and ethical convictions? Well, you don't have to have an abortion, but don't impose your morality on the mother (the owner). She has the right to choose to have an abortion. The Supreme Court has spoken. Abortion is legal."

The goal of a Constitutional Amendment or reversal by the Court is still ahead. But the pro-life movement continues to grow. It is now the largest grass roots movement in the history of the U.S.A. Then, the discrimination was on the basis of skin color. Now, it is on the basis of age and place of residence (living in the womb).



## SLAVERY

Dred Scott 1857      7-2 Decision

Property of Owner

Black

Non-person

Choose to Buy-Sell-Kill

Abolitionists Should Not Impose Morality  
on Slave owners

Was Legal

## ABORTION

Roe vs. Wade      7-2 Decision

Property of Owner (Mother)

Unborn

Non-person

Choose to Keep or Kill

Pro-lifers Should Not Impose Morality on  
Mother

Abortion Is Legal

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

### Job's laments:

Job 3:11-19: (NRSV) *"<sup>11</sup>Why did I not die at birth, come forth from the womb and expire?  
<sup>12</sup>Why were there knees to receive me, or breasts for me to suck? <sup>13</sup>Now I would be lying down  
and quiet; I would be asleep; then I would be at rest <sup>14</sup>with kings and counselors of the earth  
who rebuild ruins for themselves, <sup>15</sup>or with princes who have gold, who fill their houses with  
silver. <sup>16</sup>Or why was I not buried like a stillborn child, like an infant that never sees the light?  
<sup>17</sup>There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. <sup>18</sup>There the  
prisoners are at ease together; they do not hear the voice of the taskmaster. <sup>19</sup>The small and  
the great are there, and the slaves are free from their masters."*

Job 10:18-19: (NIV) *"<sup>18</sup>Why then did you bring me out of the womb? I wish I had died  
before any eye saw me. <sup>19</sup>If only I had never come into being, or had been carried straight  
from the womb to the grave!"*

Again - there is value in the unborn! The stillborn is buried, respected and remembered.

### Our theme text:

Psalms 139:13-16: (NRSV) *"<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me  
together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I  
was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my  
unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when  
none of them as yet existed."*

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...!*