

Discerning Truth in a Post Christian Culture

How to Decide Moral Issues in Our Culture

Lesson 9, June 10, 2018

Is Elective Termination of a Pregnancy (Induced Abortion) Morally Wrong?

----- Medical & Legal Facts; Frequent reasons -----

I. Various Reasons for Elective Pregnancy Termination

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| A. Health risk to the mother | D. Economic hardship |
| B. Risk of genetic health problems with baby | E. Age of mother (too young, old) |
| C. Rape or Incest | F. Pressure from partner |

II. Various Types of Induced Abortion

- A. Medical or surgical abortion (surgical D&C early or late term)
- B. Partial birth abortion
- C. IUD, "Morning After" pill

III. Legal Definition of Murder, or Homicide

- A. 1st Degree: deliberate killing of a human being with premeditated, planned intent
Felony Homicide: death of a human being which occurs during a crime
- B. 2nd Degree: intentionally killing a human being without premeditation or planning
- C. Voluntary Manslaughter: killing a human being in the heat of passion
- D. Involuntary Manslaughter: unintentional killing of a human being
- E. Justifiable Homicide: NOT A CRIME—killing a human being in self-defense
- > 18 US Code S1841, enacted 2004: *The unborn victims of violence act allows for a fetus to be treated as a victim in crimes. Subsection (c) of that statute specifically prohibits prosecutions related to consented abortions and medical treatments.*

**If there were no law permitting abortion, which of the above categories would apply?
What is the key question for Bible believing Christians regarding the act of abortion?
When does a developing embryo become a human being with an everlasting soul?
Does the Bible have anything to say about abortion? (See Ex. 21:22 & attachment)**

IV. Three Views Regarding the Origin of the Soul

- A. Two views regarding the non-material human part of human beings
 - 1. Bipartite—Having a Body and Soul only; the physical nature and the spiritual
 - 2. Tripartite—Having a body, soul, & spirit (I Thessalonians 5:23)
 - 3. While important to our understanding of human nature, either view is applicable to the argument of when an embryo becomes a physical-spiritual human being
- B. The "soul bank" theory—God created all souls at one time and "deposits" them into a baby at the proper time. (Theological reasoning)
 - 1. Human beings become a company, not a race
 - 2. Adam's sin could not be passed down to his children (Palagian heresy)
- C. Creation of the soul by God at the proper time of the embryonic development (Theo.R)
 - 1. God becomes the Creator of a fallen soul
 - 2. God becomes the Author of sin in each human being
- D. After its Kind—Adam and Eve were given reproductive powers to produce offspring like themselves. Babies inherit the full human nature from their parents, both physical and spiritual. This means that an embryo is fully a human being with an everlasting soul from the moment of fertilization, inheriting all of their substance from their parents. (Romans 5:12,17-18; Gen 1:24-31, Psalm 51:5)

According to Biblical theology, at what point during embryonic development is elective termination murder? If it is murder, what degree of murder would it be? Is this morally wrong? Does the exception clause of 18 US Code S1841 make it acceptable before God?