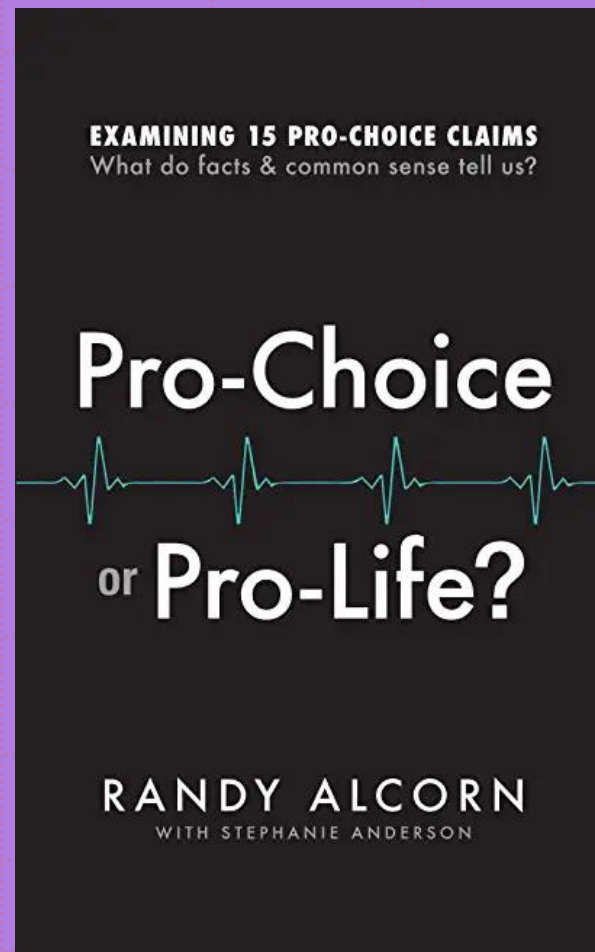


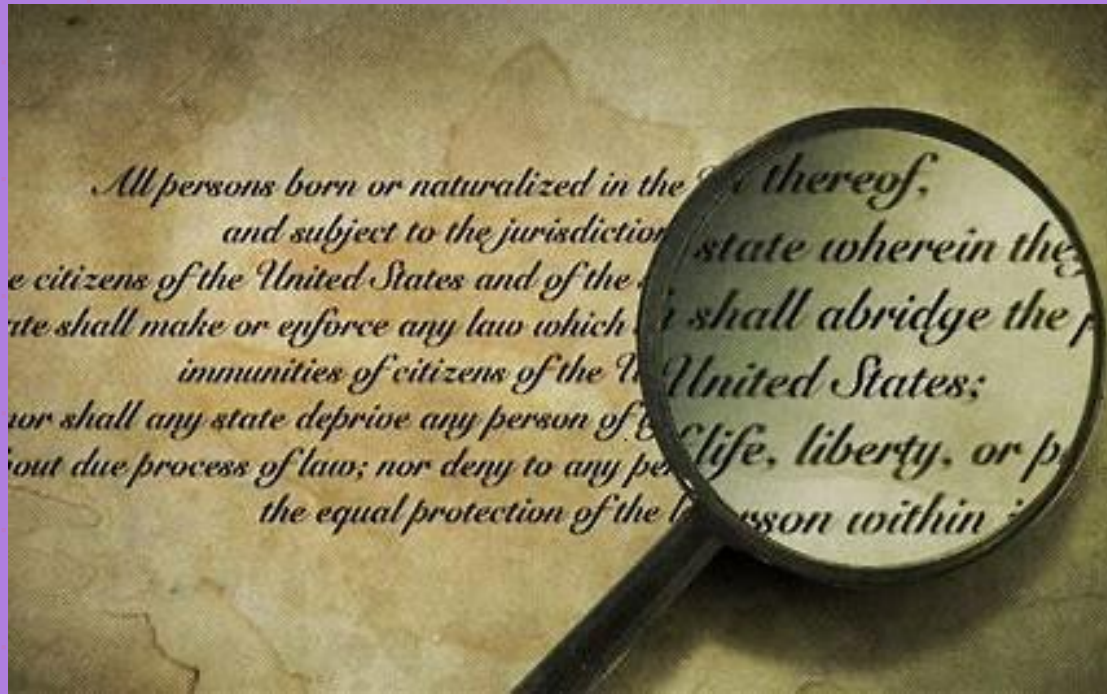
Sanctity of Life 1



Pro-Choice or Pro-Life: Examining 15 Pro-Choice Claims—What Do Facts and Common Sense Tell Us? By Randy Alcorn



14th amendment—"no state shall **deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law...**"



Biblical Basis on the Sanctity of Human Life

- Prohibition against taking innocent life at any stage-- Exodus 20:13—“You must not murder (any persons).” – unlawful killing—murder defined: “the unlawful premeditated killing of one human being (synonym—“person”) by another;” capital punishment or killing to restrain evildoers in society or war is legally permitted in human societies

The use of personal pronouns denotes human “persons.”

- Job 31:15—“Did not He who made **me** in the womb make him? Did not the same One fashion **us** before our birth?”
- Isaiah 49:1—“The Lord called Me from the womb; from the inward parts of my mother, He named me. (reference directly to Israel, but could be to Messiah or possibly to Isaiah himself)

- Ps.139:13-16—Each human person is fearfully/wonderfully made—“you knit **me** together in my mother’s womb...your eyes saw **my** unformed body.”
- Jeremiah 1:5--“Before I formed **you** in the womb, I knew **you**.“
The “you” is the person Jeremiah.

- **Luke 1:35**—“The angel answered and said to Mary, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy **Child** shall be **called** the Son of God.’” “No faithful Christian would ever deny that Jesus Christ was a true human person whose life was sacred from the first moment of conception in the womb of His mother Mary.”
- Gen. 2:7 – creation of Adam different from the creation up to that point—here God “forms” Adam and breathes into him – prototype of human creation “Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.”

- **The Early Church's View of Abortion—Abortion and The Early Church, by Michael J. Gorman**
- **Tertullian (197 AD)**
- **The Didache (The Lord's Teachings Through the Twelve Apostles, circa 80-110 AD, perhaps as early as 50-70 A.D.)**

Sanctity of Life 3



2 Important Questions

- **Is the Fetus a Human?**
- **Is the Fetus a Person?**
- **Ways to Be Thoroughly Pro-Life at The Barn**

Is the Fetus Human?

"What does a three-month-old fetus look like?" "Just a clump of cells." No, looks like a small but real human baby.

- (*fetus* = Latin: bringing forth of offspring)
- *Premise: From Moment of Conception, the Fetus is Human*
- *Fetal development by day and week*

Is the Human Fetus a Person?

- *Premise: From the moment of conception, the fertilized egg (zygote) is a distinct human person.*
- Is it legally/morally wrong to take the life of an innocent human person? "Thou shalt not murder."

Who Decides when Personhood Occurs?

- many different views, much uncertainty in world and in religions
- personhood theories – post-birth (28 days); post-birth if infant has serious physical defects; at birth; three months after conception; after “quickening”

Viability

- **U.S. Roe v. Wade's Answer: at viability–28 weeks 1973/ 22-24 weeks 1992** – def. viability: “that stage of fetal development when the life of the unborn child may be continued indefinitely outside the womb by natural or artificial (medical) life-supportive systems.”

Viability

- **Roe v. Wade's definition of Fetal "Personhood"** If inaccurate, the law falls apart-- *"If the suggestion of personhood of the unborn is established, the appellant's (pro-abortion) case, of course, collapses, for the fetus's right to life is then guaranteed specifically by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution."*
- **14th Amendment**—*"the state shall not deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."*

Viability & Personhood

- **Issue as SCOTUS considers Mississippi's 15 week abortion ban law this summer**—Is “age of fetal viability” an appropriate standard to use to legislate the abortion issue? If not, then *Roe v. Wade* must be re-considered.
- **When personhood?** –Not at viability: at fetal heartbeat? At fetal brain waves? How about: formation of new genetically unique human individual?

Objective Criteria for Human Personhood: (from Alcorn's book)

- 1. Is it human? Did it come from human beings? (Not a hamster)
- 2. Does it have its own unique genetic code? (Not part of mom's)
- 3. Is it alive and growing?

A Biblical picture of when human personhood comes into being

- Review of OT and NT scriptures
- Review shows the unborn fetus as human/person (personal pronouns), but not precisely when that personhood occurs.

A Biblical Answer as to When Personhood Occurs

An Analogy Between Humanity's Conception and a Human's Conception

- **1 Co. 15:45**—"The scripture says, 'The first man, Adam, **became a living person.**'" When and how?
- **Genesis 2:7**—"Then the Lord God **formed the man** (*ha adam*) from the dust of the **ground/earth/soil** (*adamah*). He breathed the **breath of life** (lit.—breath of "lives") into the man's nostrils, and the man **became a living soul** (def: *nephesh*—soul, self, person, mind, living being)

Ways Christians at The Barn can get involved in Pro-Life/Anti-Abortion Ministries

Thoroughly Pro-Life Attitudes

- Regard all that God created as “good” and “very good;” treat the earth as our created home; become humans created to “govern” the earth (our home) compassionately and wisely
- Remove shame and condemnation from our hearts/actions toward those with unplanned pregnancies—instead, extend the love of Jesus: John 8:11—“I do not **condemn** you. (But) go and **sin no more.**” Accepting/supporting, but not endorsing.

Ways Christians at The Barn can get involved in Pro-Life/Anti-Abortion Ministries

Thoroughly Pro-Life Attitudes

- Be part of the solution: practical personal and church care to help humans grow and thrive in the womb and outside of it, from conception to natural death.
- Pray! Form/join prayer groups for pregnancy centers, for pro-life initiatives by churches, and for laws that preserve, not destroy life.
“Every hour, 3 species (animals or plants) disappear. Every day, up to 150 species are lost. Every year, between 15,000 and 55,000 species (animals or become extinct.”

Thoroughly Pro-Life Actions Possible Through The Barn

- Volunteer at pregnancy centers such as The Door of Hope (Wilmington, DE)
- Volunteer at Freedom Outreach
- Support Good Neighbors
- Support DivorceCare Groups
- Support Trauma Recovery Group
- Support Abortion Recovery Bible Study
- Support Meet me at The Well (anti-sex trafficking)
- Adopt and Do Foster Care; Making Life Disciples 2.0 (walking with pregnant women)

Thoroughly Pro-Life Actions Possible Through The Barn

- Sign Petitions for Thoroughly Pro-Life Causes
- Protest/March for Thoroughly Pro-Life Causes
- Join the Vineyard Justice Network
- Other Ways to Support Life to be formed

- **Letter of St. Barnabas: (between 70-132 AD)**
- **These two above contained a section, based on Jewish oral and written tradition, called *The Two Ways***

Sanctity of Life 2



Question 1

Do Pro-Lifers care only about human persons until their birth, but not for the welfare and care of human persons after they are born?

- **James 1:27**—“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.”
- **1 Tim. 5:3**—“Take care of any widow who has no one to care for her.”
- **Matt. 25: 31-46** – “I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help Me.”

- Let me say emphatically...





How Pro-Lifers Must Walk the Talk of being thoroughly pro-life

Question 2

- **Is the Preborn Human (the fetus = Latin: bringing forth of offspring) a Person?**

- **“What does a three-month-old fetus look like?” “Just a clump of cells.”**

Objective Criteria for Humanness (Personhood): (from Alcorn book)

1. Is it human? Did it come from human beings?
2. Does it have its own unique genetic code?
3. Is it alive and growing?

- **1 Co. 15:45**—“The scripture tells us, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living person.’”
- **Genesis 2:7**—“Then the Lord God formed the man (*adam*) from the dust of the ground (*adamah*). He breathed the breath of life (His divine life) into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living soul (def: *nephesh*—soul, self, person, mind, living being)

- **Who Decides when Personhood Occurs?**— many different views, much uncertainty in world and in religions

- **“If the suggestion of personhood of the unborn is established, the appellant’s (pro-abortion) case, of course, collapses, for the fetus’s right to life is then guaranteed specifically the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.”**
- **14th Amendment—“the state shall not deprive any person of life without due process of law.”**

Ways Christians at The Barn can get involved in Pro-Life/Anti-Abortion Ministries--

- Remove Shame and Condemnation from Our Hearts/Actions—extend the love of Jesus: John 8:11—“I do not condemn you. (But) go and sin no more.” Accepting but not endorsing.
- Offer Personal Care to help humans grow and thrive—“But the Christians take care of everyone.”

- Volunteer at The Door of Hope (Wilmington, DE)
- Volunteer at Freedom Outreach in Wilmington, DE
- Support Good Neighbors, New Session of DivorceCare
- Abortion Recovery Bible Study, Meet me at The Well
- Adoption and Foster Care, Making Life Disciples 2.0
- Sign Petitions for pro-life, anti-abortion causes
- Protest/March for pro-life, anti-abortion causes
- Intercept Moms Going for Abortions with loving interaction
- Pray! Form/join prayer groups for pregnancy centers
- Join the Vineyard Justice Network