

Prolife Apologetics



Beverly Jacobson

Homeschool Mom of 9

Founder & Chief Mama Bear



Abortion is the greatest human rights tragedy of our lifetime.

- 63,459,781 lives have been lost just in America since 1973.
- Planned Parenthood kills 1 baby every 89 seconds.
- 67% of babies with Down syndrome in the USA are aborted.

We MUST articulate the case for life. We can't afford not to be talking about this, even in Christian circles. Of the women who have abortions:

- [54% identify as Christian](#).
- [4 in 10 were churchgoers](#) (according to a survey sponsored by [Care Net](#)).
- 16% claim to be evangelical ([Lifeway research](#)).

The Case for Life—Scott Klusendorf, Life Training Institute:

- Premise 1: It is wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being.
- Premise 2: Abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being.
- Conclusion: Therefore, abortion is morally wrong.

PERSONHOOD ARGUMENTS

- Our personhood does not depend on age/abilities.
- Life does not begin at birth or “viability.” (What about premature babies? Different standards of care around the world?)
- Life does not begin at a heartbeat: how could that spring from something that isn't alive?
- Our value is rooted in our shared nature as humans.

A simple, straightforward way to defend the case against abortion is to focus on these 2 aspects:

- An embryo is a distinct, living, whole human being. (Not part of a human being like skin cells on the back of a hand, or an appendix, or any other thing.) When [96% of biologists agree](#) that the starting point for life is at fertilization—when a separate, distinct, living being comes into existence with its own DNA—we can confidently speak to this point!
- Differences in size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not sufficient reasons to justify killing a human being. (SLED)
 - [“The S.L.E.D. Test”](#) by Alan Shlemon for Stand to Reason
 - [“The SLED Test – Top 4 Arguments”](#) by Steve Wagner, Stand to Reason, shared by Focus on the Family with permission

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARGUMENTS

- Abortion is health care.
 - Abortion actually interferes with the natural functioning of the human body.
 - Pregnancy is not a disease: it's a sign a woman's body is doing what it was designed to do!
 - Obviously it isn't health care when one of the patients has his or her life ended as a result of the procedure.
- If you outlaw abortion, women will DIE (i.e. from dangerous, back-alley abortions).
 - [The "statistics" about women dying from illegal, back-alley abortions are all lies.](#)
 - This argument again ignores the humanity of the unborn (the case for life).
 - By this logic, why do we try to outlaw theft, murder, rape, or anything wrong? "People will do it anyway, so they might as well do it safely."
- A woman has the right to her own bodily autonomy.
 - Once again ignores the humanity of the unborn (the case for life).
 - A woman's body was clearly designed to grow and nourish babies.
 - Bodily autonomy should begin with the decision not to have sex until marriage.

JUDGMENTS OF MORALITY

- Don't like abortion? Don't have one!
 - Don't like slavery? Don't have a slave!
 - Don't like abuse? Don't abuse your child/spouse!
 - We are not making personal judgments. We are speaking about objective standards of right and wrong.
 - How about: "Don't want to get pregnant? Don't do acts that can lead to pregnancy!"
- You don't really care about women. You're only prolife until the baby is born.
 - Nearly 3,000 PRCs & maternity homes in the country are run by volunteers & donations (unlike Planned Parenthood).
 - Pro-lifers are invested & involved in adoption/fostering.
 - They often call pro-lifers "forced birthers." *What do you think abortion is if not forced birth of a baby that has been killed?!*
 - We can discuss the best ways to support families after babies are born, but just because we don't agree with [insert policy here] doesn't mean we aren't pro-life at all stages. Post-birth policies don't justify ending pre-born lives.
- This is a private issue between a woman and her doctor.
 - It's not actually true that this is a matter only between a woman and her doctor because an innocent human life is also involved.
 - Fathers are affected by these decisions. Many men grieve the loss of their babies.
 - We have laws to protect the innocent and vulnerable: a human trafficker might desire privacy, too!

EXCEPTIONS/DIFFICULT CASES

- Life of the mother
 - An OB-Gyn has 2 patients! And a good doctor will effectively treat both of them.
 - “Life of the mother” argument is often used to justify late-term abortions.
 - Safer for Mom in these events to induce & deliver baby.
 - Many people do not truly know what these abortions involve. See the section “How are late-term abortions performed” in [this Q&A reference](#) from the Charlotte Lozier Institute.
 - [Read the AAPLOG position statement on this issue.](#)
 - [Premature delivery is not induced abortion.](#)
 - Ectopic pregnancies: baby will NOT survive. This IS life-threatening for the mother. It is NOT abortion. ([See the AAPLOG statement.](#))
- Miscarriage management
 - Miscarriage management is NOT abortion.
 - Conflating these situations is disingenuous.
 - D&C (dilation & curettage) or D&E (dilation & evacuation) are surgical procedures to remove a baby from the mother’s uterus.
 - In the case of miscarriage, this happens after the baby has already passed. In the case of abortion, this causes the baby to pass.
 - An analogy would be to compare the act of arson to a controlled fire for safety and fire prevention purposes. The actual act—starting a fire—may be the same, but the reasons are completely different.
- Cases of rape or incest
 - The least # of cases, yet the most often cited reason to justify abortion.
 - Circumstances of conception do not affect our value.
 - Abortion cannot remove past trauma but only adds to it.
 - Abortion punishes the two victims of this crime. We should not punish innocent children for the sins of the father.
 - Abortion removes any opportunity for redemption and blessing: Genesis 50:20.
- Life-limiting diagnoses
 - Our genetic makeup does not determine our value.
 - In many cases a prenatal diagnosis is wrong.
 - Preventing suffering is impossible; we all experience trials.
 - Making judgments about someone else’s “quality of life” is a dangerous place to be (“slippery slope”).
 - Abortion will not remove the grief or pain of these situations; it does remove opportunity for joy, blessing, and making memories with Baby.

“Women carrying children with life-limiting conditions need to be cared for in a way that not only maximizes maternal health, but also honors the life of their child. Delivering a child intact and then administering the appropriate medical care for that child – whether that be palliative care or active treatment – is the medically appropriate and ethical thing to do. This scenario is one that every OB/GYN faces. Given that 85% of OB/GYNs do not perform abortions, third-trimester abortions do not need to be legal in order to optimally care for women and their children, no matter what the circumstances.”

– Dr. Christina Francis, M.D., Chair of the Board, AAPLOG

How can YOU get involved in the pro-life movement?

PRAYER SUPPORT: Pray for...

- Hearts & minds of those who are deceived
- Christians to speak truth boldly & graciously
- Abortion-vulnerable women
- Post-abortive women
- Men to speak up/take responsibility
- Those serving on the front lines
- Those serving on the legislative side
- Provision for pro-life ministries

PERSONAL SUPPORT

- Volunteer at local pregnancy resource center: behind the scenes or directly with clients
- Donate diapers, formula, baby items, etc.
- Share your own skills/services/passions
- Be a “go-to” person in your church or homeschool circles
- Volunteer at an [Embrace Grace group](#)...or start one in your area!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Research pro-life ministries...we ALL need support!
- Find one that you feel passionate about and commit to supporting them however you can
- (Should not take away from local church support)
- One-time gifts and/or recurring donations
- Assist with fundraising/head up a fundraiser

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

- Share what you’ve learned here in your own circles.
- Ask a pro-life ministry leader to speak at your church/homeschool group/Bible study. (Reach out to [Mama Bear Care](#) to have Beverly speak to your group!)
- Get involved: prayer walks, sidewalk advocacy, newsletters...and talk about it!
- Keep up with national and local issues regarding life.

JUST A FEW RECOMMENDED RESOURCES...

[The World and Everything In It](#) (Christian news podcast)

The [Breakpoint](#) podcast (a ministry of the Colson Center for Worldview)

[What Would You Say?](#) Video series from the Colson Center for Worldview

[Help Her Be Brave](#), book by Amy Ford (founder of Embrace Grace) with many ideas for supporting the pro-life cause.

[The Matter of Life](#), award-winning documentary bringing awareness to the abortion issue.

[Unplanned Grace](#), book by Brittany Smith and Natasha Smith of Save the Storks. Especially speaks to the various factors that can drive women to abort.

[UN-Planning Our Parenthood](#), story of the Jacobson family’s journey to having 9 children and starting the [Mama Bear Care](#) ministry.

SCRIPTURES QUOTED (NIV)

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy. – Proverbs 31:8-9

Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.
If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,”
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who guards your life know it?
Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done? – Proverbs 24:11-12

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. – 1 Peter 3:15-16

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. – Colossians 4:2-6

Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
or you yourself will be just like him.
Answer a fool according to his folly,
or he will be wise in his own eyes. – Proverbs 26:4-5

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. – Ephesians 6:10-12

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. – 2 Corinthians 4:4