



ANALYZING THE ABORTION ISSUE

- Use the tables below to make a value judgment for society as whole on the abortion issue
 - The first table outlines facts about pregnancy
 - The second table lists five (5) areas to consider about abortion, along with competing values

Pregnancy Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnancy begins at conception (i.e. at embryonic implantation in the wall of the uterus) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embryonic life begins at fertilization Fetal movement begins as early as 16 weeks of pregnancy ("quickening" = a fetus can move inside the womb) Fetal viability begins as early as 22 weeks of pregnancy ("viability" = a fetus can survive outside the womb) 95% of U.S. abortions occur before 16 weeks of pregnancy (i.e., before "quickening") 99.4% of U.S. abortions occur before 22 weeks of pregnancy (i.e. before "viability") 60% of U.S. abortions are performed with medication (mifepristone) 0% of U.S. abortions are "partial birth abortions" (the procedure was banned in 2003) U.S. Constitution grants U.S. citizenship upon either birth or "naturalization" of foreign birth U.S. childbirths result in 32.90 deaths per 100,000 (2021) U.S. abortions result in 0.45 deaths per 100,000 (2021)
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Abortion Judgements (circle one)		Perspective A (Pro-Life/Anti-Abortion)	Perspective B (Pro-Choice/Abortion Rights)
A or B	Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human life fully begins at conception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human life fully begins on day that unborn human life begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human life fully begins at birth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human life fully begins on the day of birth (i.e. the birthday)
A or B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unborn Human life must be fully protected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until fetal viability (22 weeks), an unborn human life should be fully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protected, even if it puts a mother's life at risk After fetal viability (22 weeks), an unborn human life should be fully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protected, even if it puts a mother's life at risk A pregnant woman's human life should be fully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respected, but she must accept childbirth risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Life must be fully protected <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until fetal viability (22 weeks), an unborn human life should be fully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respected, but should not put a mother's well-being at risk After fetal viability (22 weeks), an unborn human life should be fully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respected, but should not put a mother's life at risk A pregnant woman's human life should be fully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protected, including risks to her life and well-being
A or B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The law should pre-decide how to best protect both lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mother should decide how to best protect both lives 
A or B	Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A woman should have reproductive free will until conception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After conception a woman should be required to give birth A woman can choose to avoid sex to prevent pregnancy and childbirth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A woman should have reproductive free will until fetal viability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After viability, a woman should still be allowed an abortion to save her life A woman should not have to avoid sex to prevent pregnancy and childbirth
A or B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A woman should have bodily autonomy until conception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After conception, a woman should be required to give birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A woman should have bodily autonomy always <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After conception, a woman should still be able to make health care decisions
A or B		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each state should control a woman's choice about abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each state should have the right to require a pregnant woman to give birth Each state should have the right to decide what is best for the unborn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The U.S. should protect a woman's choice about abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each woman should have the right to decide whether to give birth Each woman should have the right to decide what is best for her and the unborn
A or B	Historical Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, abortion has often been condemned <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500s BCE: The Hippocratic Oath barred abortions using a pessary (tong) 1821 CE: The first U.S. state criminalized abortion after "quickening" 1829 CE: The first U.S. state criminalized abortion at any stage 1859 CE: The American Medical Assn. condemned abortions at any stage 1869 CE: The Catholic Church first condemned abortion at any stage 1910 CE: All but one U.S. state criminalized abortion at any stage 2022 CE: The U.S. returned abortion law to each state in <i>Dobbs v. JWHO</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, abortion has always been performed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1550 BCE: The first recorded evidence exists about an abortion in Egypt 400s BCE: Early Roman Law allowed abortion prior to "quickening" 1140 CE: Christians believed that ensoulment occurs at "quickening" 1600s CE: English common law allowed abortion prior to "quickening" 1950s CE: The abortion procedure becomes safe and effective 1970 CE: The American Medical Assn. supported abortions before fetal viability 1973 CE: The U.S. legalized the right to abortion as a U.S. right via <i>Roe v. Wade</i>
A or B	Legal Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion law is needed to prevent abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion law should protect the unborn life Abortion law should not be used as a form of birth control Abortion law should provide clear penalties for offenders Abortion law should require waiting periods and parental consent Abortion law should require victims of rape or incest to carry to birth In the U.S., laws should require good morality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion law is needed to regulate abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortion law should protect a pregnant woman's life and well-being Abortion law should not be the cause of a pregnant woman's avoidable death Abortion law should provide exceptions for rape, incest, and health risk Abortion law should encourage waiting periods and parental notification Abortion law should provide victims of rape or incest options In the U.S., laws should encourage and regulate good morality
A or B	Biblical Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible indirectly mentions abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the bible, the word "abortion" never appears – the topic is not addressed In the bible, "Thou shalt not kill" prohibits abortion (Exodus 20:13) In the bible, God "knows" an unborn life in the womb (Jeremiah 1, etc.) In the U.S., religious beliefs are best reflected in state laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible never mentions abortion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the bible, the word "abortion" never appears – the topic is not addressed In the bible, "Thou shalt not kill" allows legal killing for self-defense, war, etc. In the bible, Jewish law did not consider an unborn life to be a full person In the U.S., religious beliefs should not be imposed on people

ABORTION TIMELINE

Key Take-Away: Abortions have only become readily available & low risk within the last 50 years

- Historically, abortions were unavailable, discouraged, and often illegal
- Historically, abortions were also much riskier than childbirth - now childbirth is slightly riskier than abortion

TIME PERIOD		ABORTION PROCEDURE				
YEAR	ERA	RISK	AVAILABILITY	LEGALITY	MORALITY	METHOD
1550 BCE	Ancient Egyptian	High Risk	Low Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement (~16 weeks)	Accepted	The first recorded abortion occurred in Egypt using herbs Abortions had risk of toxicity, infection, and complication
500 BCE	Greek & Roman Republics	Moderate Risk	Moderate Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement (~16 weeks)	Accepted	Abortions using a pessary (tong-like instrument) were condemned in the Hippocratic Oath (500 BC)
0	Roman Empire	Moderate Risk	Moderate Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement (~16 weeks)	Accepted	Locally trained midwives, herbalists, and physicians performed abortion Abortion procedures were often risky: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abortions were performed in non-sterile conditions Herbal solutions had variable safety and effectiveness Surgical solutions used instruments like hooks, spoons and forceps Other methods included Injecting solutions or packing gauze into the uterus to induce miscarriage Procedures were often done blindly in the uterus, without dilation of the cervix Difficulties included bleeding, infection, & perforation of the uterus
300	Roman Empire	Moderate Risk	Moderate Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement (~16 weeks)	Discouraged	
1200	Medieval	Moderate Risk	Moderate Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement (~16 weeks)	Discouraged	
1775	Colonial	Moderate Risk	Moderate Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement (~16 weeks)	Discouraged	Basic herbal and non-surgical techniques were known and could be safely implemented early in pregnancy General medical knowledge was slowly improving
1850	Pre-Civil War	Moderate Risk	Moderate Availability	Legal until Fetal Movement Some Restrictions	Discouraged	A new surgical abortion method was introduced (D&C) The American Medical Association (AMA) was created The AMA lobbied for abortion to become illegal
1900	Early Modern	Moderate Risk	Low Availability	Mostly illegal, with exceptions	Discouraged Immoral	General medical advancements occurred (sterilization) Illegal abortions were common and unsafe
1950	Early Modern	Moderate Risk	Low Availability	Mostly illegal, with exceptions	Discouraged Immoral	The Vacuum Aspiration procedure developed in 1958 Some hospitals performed therapeutic abortions Illegal abortions were common and unsafe
1975	Modern	Low Risk	High Availability	A U.S. Privacy Right until Fetal Viability (~22 weeks)	Accepted Discouraged Immoral	Abortion procedures became safer than childbirth Abortion was legalized in many countries. Illegal abortions became unnecessary and infrequent
2000	Modern	Low Risk	High Availability	A U.S. Privacy Right until Fetal Viability (~22 weeks)	Accepted Discouraged Immoral	Abortion rates declined in the U.S. from 1990 to 2020 The abortion pill became widely available by 2000
2025	Modern	Low Risk	Variable Availability	State by State 21 11 18	Accepted Discouraged Immoral	Abortion rates in the U.S. began increasing in 2020 Abortion procedures are safer than childbirth in the U.S.

BIBLE VERSES

Key Take-Away: The bible provides no direct guidance on the abortion issue

- The word 'abortion' does not appear in the bible and there is no reference to the abortion procedure
- "Thou shall not kill" applies to unlawful killing of another human, but may not apply to unborn life
- Many passages in the bible indicate that God "knows" a person in the womb, without further clarification

Exodus 20:13 – **You shall not kill.** (the text is actually "You shall not murder" in the original Jewish Torah).

Exodus 21:20-25 – And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished. Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for he is his money. **If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.**

Galatians 1:11-20 – I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when **God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace**, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

Isaiah 44:1-2 – Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: This is what the Lord says— **he who made you, who formed you in the womb**, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 44:24 – This is what the Lord says— **your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb**: I am the Lord, the Maker of all things, who stretches out the heavens, who spreads out the earth by myself,

Isaiah 49:1 – Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: **Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.**

Isaiah 49:5 – And now the Lord says— **he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself**, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—

Isaiah 64:8 – Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; **we are all the work of your hand.**

Jeremiah 1:5 – Before **I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart**; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 32:35 – They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom **to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molek**, though I never commanded—nor did it enter my mind—that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.

Job 31:15 – **Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?**

Judges 13:5 – You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, **dedicated to God from the womb**. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

Judges 13:7 – But he said to me, "You will become pregnant and have a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because **the boy will be a Nazirite of God from the womb until the day of his death.**"

Luke 1:13-15 – But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and **he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.**

Luke 1:41-44 – **When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb**, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? **As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped**

Psalms 58:3 – Even from birth the wicked go astray; **from the womb they are wayward**, spreading lies.

Psalms 51:6 – **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

Psalms 139:13-16 **13** – **For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. **My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

Psalms 106:37-38 – **They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons, And shed innocent blood,** The blood of their sons and their daughters Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; And the land was defiled with the blood.

Psalms 22, 9-10 – **Yet you brought me out of the womb**; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. From birth I was cast on you; **from my mother's womb you have been my God.**