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Business Ethics

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Every Life Deserves a First Chance

Today's world brings many ethical situations into our life. There are so many things that go on in our life that may question our ethical standards. How we get into these ethical situations, will definitely differ upon various circumstances. For instance, one of the biggest common issues people face today is what to do if you "end up" pregnant? Should you have the baby? Should you put the baby up for adoption? Or should you just be done with it and terminate the pregnancy all together with an abortion? These are questions people face every day across the world. What would be the ethical choice? Is the fetus indeed a living being? I would like to argue that a fetus is a living being and deserves a full chance at life and that abortion should no longer be an option. In the following pages I will discuss what abortion does, why some would say it is necessary and why it would be ethical, and why I believe it is wrong.

Abortion at the time may seem like the best answer to many people

stuck in the situation of an unintended pregnancy. Planned Parenthood gives a lot of information about what abortion is and why they offer it on their website. Their website defines abortion as, “Abortion is a safe and legal way to end pregnancy (Planned Parenthood).” This statement is found at the top of their abortion page in a large bold font. Planned Parenthood offers two main types of abortions, the abortion pill, and in-clinic abortion procedures.

The abortion pill is an accumulation of two medications with the purpose of ending the abortion. Generally this method is used in the earlier stages of pregnancy up to about nine weeks.

According to Planned Parenthood it works about 97 out of 100 times.

In Clinic abortion procedures are done in one of two ways, the Aspiration method, and the D&E (dilation and evacuation method). Both of these methods have been said to be very effective and safe alternatives to unplanned pregnancy.

Some of the biggest arguments people have in favor of abortion that I have heard are that the unborn are not people until the moment of birth, women have rights over their own body, a baby should not be born

unwanted, and cases of rape and incest. These arguments are based on the assumption that a fetus is not actually a person and thus has absolutely no significance in this world whatsoever. A fetus is merely a mass of matter just as significant as a rock.

The Merriam Webster dictionary describes an embryo as, “a human or animal in the early stages of development before it is born, hatched, etc. (Webster).” Webster is not the only dictionary that defines a baby as a human, many other sources and medical texts describe an embryo as a human being in the earliest stages of development. In the book, “Pathology of the Fetus and the Infant,” it says, “every time a sperm cell and ovum unite, a new being is created which is alive and will continue to live unless its death is brought about by some specific condition.” This excerpt here says it all, a baby is a human being from the time of conception until the time it dies. The author of this quote are saying that an embryo is indeed a living being contrary to what popular belief has said that a fetus is not actually alive. The fetus, or zygote at the time of conception, has human DNA in it with information about what it will one day become. At the moment of conception, an organism like no other

future or past, has come into existence. Since this organism contains human DNA, it is indeed a human being. It is the child of human parents. 18 day after conception, the heart of this human organism then starts to beat for the first time. Now let me also say that most abortions take place after the first 18 days of pregnancy. U.S. abortion statistics show that a greater percentage of people have abortions six weeks into pregnancy (Abort73.com). People who would say that a fetus is not a human being then would have to look at what science has proven and wonder if what they say is actually true. Since the fetus is indeed a human life, would that make it ethical and moral to kill it?

Now, we know that a fetus is indeed a human being from the first moment of conception, with a zygote that contains human DNA telling detailed information about what it will become, we can move on to the next argument. A woman should have power over her own body. I will start off by saying yes, I do agree that a woman, and everyone for that matter, should have say over their OWN body. I emphasize the word own because since what we say about a fetus is true, that it is indeed a human life, that that makes a fetus not part of the woman's body and thus she

should not be able to decide death for it. An arm and a leg are all part of the human body. We all know this very well. However, a fetus is an entirely different ball game. A woman carries inside of her a whole separate life. A life with entirely separate DNA. A life that 18 days after conception, has a beating heart. This life also begins to show emotions in the womb. Twins have been recorded interacting with each other in the womb and babies even seen sucking their thumbs in the womb. To say that you have power over your own body would be correct. We are all created with a free will to choose, and decide what we do with ourselves. However, to say that you have the power to decide life or death for a human organism would be going beyond the extreme.

People also like to say that if their baby is born, that it will not be wanted or that they could not take care of a baby at the time. Wanted by them? That may be true, but I do not believe there is such a thing as an unwanted baby. The reasoning I have for this is myself. I was put up for adoption before I was born. My mother realized she could not take care of me and put me up for adoption before I was born. Then my adopted parents adopted me soon after birth and within three months, I had a home

here in the United States.

What I am trying to say here is that there is no such thing as an unwanted child. People all over the world, like my mom and dad, are looking for children to adopt. If you do not want your baby or cannot take care of it, maybe consider putting the baby up for adoption. The child will then get the chance at life that it would have never gotten if abortion took place. The child will get to live and grow up and experience life. The child will get a chance. There are many ways adoption can happen. There are parents waiting for a baby all over the world and would love to have a baby. Adoptions today can happen before birth, so that when the child is born, it can be given to the adoptive family.

Abortion may sound like a quick easy fix to a big “problem” but in reality, it is the ending of a human life, something that cannot be undone and will stay in your conscience for forever. Adoption is a much better alternative to abortion. Believe it or not, putting a child up for adoption is free. American Adoptions is an adoption agency that helps many people each year choose life. On their website, they discuss the pros to adoption. One of them being the fact that adoption is free. At the top of their page,

they have in large font, “Abortion is final, adoption is just the beginning (American Adoptions).” Like the website for Planned Parenthood, American Adoptions provides people with various information about adoption and how it is ultimately the best choice for your child. They talk about what can be done in the case of unplanned pregnancies. No child is really unwanted. There is always a couple looking for a child that they cannot have. In the end, adoption is choosing life and opportunity for your child. It is giving a baby the chance at life everyone deserves.

The next argument is abortion is the alternative to pregnancies caused by rape and incest. However, it is not. We are still considering a human life, regardless of how it happened. Yes, rape and incest are horrific things. Adding another horrific thing will not solve the problem. You do not try to make an antidote for a horrible event by making another horrible event take place by terminating another human life. Again, adoption is always better. The answer to a problem is never to create another problem, two wrongs never make a right. Abortion will only punish the baby who is innocent in this case.

Today in our country, sadly the legal killing of the unborn is allowed.

However, there are laws that are set up to protect the unborn. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act signed into law in 2004 says the following, “Whoever engages in conduct that violates any of the provisions of law listed in subsection (b) and thereby causes the death of, or bodily injury (as defined in section 1365) to, a child, who is in utero at the time the conduct takes place, is guilty of a separate offense under this section.” This law gives legal protection to the unborn. It recognizes that an unborn baby is in fact a human being and can be a victim of violence. The perpetrator can then be prosecuted according to the crimes acted against either or both the mother and the unborn baby. For this law to make any legal sense, they have to recognize that an unborn child is a human being. My biggest question now is how come they do not protect babies from abortion. This law clearly states that an unborn baby is indeed a victim in the case of violence, but it excludes abortion. To me this kind of seems a little bit messed up. People are being tried for murder and double homicide in the case of a pregnant woman being harmed but our doctors our legally allowed to kill innocent babies? This is not how it should be.

People in today’s world like to justify abortion as a quick way out of

an uncomfortable situation. It makes me so sad to know that every day, people are deciding whether or not an innocent baby gets to live or die. Science shows that a baby is indeed a human life from the moment of conception. Why then, should we let innocent lives be lost. Potential, opportunity, and chance for thousands of humans just thrown away because people think babies are a burden and they want out. In the case of an unplanned pregnancy, choose life. Everyone deserves their first chance at life. The unborn are people too, they just are waiting for their chance at life. One glorious day they will be born. From there they will get to grow up and have every opportunity. Just because abortion seems like an easy alternative, does not mean it is right.

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