

Ethical Issues

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Introduction

There are several political issues that have recently caused much controversy in American society. One of the biggest issues is the topic of abortion. Abortion is one topic that has seen many court cases in the last year as well as laws that have been passed. There are two main sides to this issue: the first is the side of pro-choice. Pro-choice believes that every woman should have the right to choose whether she wants to keep her baby or not. The other side is pro-life. This side believes that life begins at the moment of conception and should therefore be protected under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The ethics behind this political topic have to start in two areas depending on which side of the debate you are on. From the pro-choice point of view, it is a woman's decision on whether or not she keeps the baby inside of her. This leads to questions such as: is it ethical for a woman to abort the fetus inside of her? Is it ethical for male politicians to make decisions that affect a woman's body? And, is it ethical to abort a baby conceived in rape? Each of these questions will be answered from the view of the pro-life side of the debate.

Is it ethical for a woman to abort the fetus inside of her?

The first question: is it ethical for a woman to abort the fetus inside of her? The pro-choice side would like people to focus on the part of the question that focuses on the woman. However, when answering this question, we have to begin with looking at the fetus inside of the woman and determine if it is more than just a clump of cells and separate from the woman. Let's begin with determining if the fetus inside of the woman is human. This can be seen through the law of biogenesis that states that "living matter always arises by the agency of preexisting living matter," (Farlex., 2012). This is the scientific theory that says that every species will produce its

own kind. A human cannot give birth to another species, it can only give birth to another human. This leads to the question: what is a human? There are three main aspects that differentiate humans from the rest of the animal kingdom, and those are thinking, being rational, and our spiritual life. As humans, we have the ability to think and to form rational thoughts. This includes being able to come up with arguments that are logical and having the ability to make judgments when an argument is brought up to us. This is an aspect that is not seen in other species within the animal kingdom. Spiritual life is the other aspect that shows what a human is and how it is different from anything else. Humans are able to have a relationship with God and they are able to receive knowledge about Him. In John 17:25-26, it says “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them,” (John 17:25-26, NIV). This verse is saying that we are able to gain knowledge about God through Jesus, who is the Son of God. He came to earth in order to show us who God is and how to love others like He loves. This is knowledge that we are able to comprehend because we are humans. The ability to gain knowledge does not just begin once a baby is born. The ability to comprehend and to gain knowledge begins while the baby is still within its mother. According to “Answers in Genesis,” a baby will start to recognize voices by weeks 27 – 31 (Answers in Genesis, n.d.). After establishing that what is inside of the mother is a human, we must also establish that that means that it is separate from the mother. This leads to the phrase “My body, my choice.” Because we have established that the baby is a human, that also means that it is not just the mother’s body. The baby inside her is separate and can live outside of its mother’s womb at just 21 weeks old (Live Action, n.d.). This is the motive behind pro-life activism such as the #Iseetwo movement,

which focuses on the fact that when a woman is pregnant, she carries a separate human inside of her. While the baby is connected to the mother, this does not make it any less human. This is just like when someone is on life support, or when someone with diabetes relies on insulin in order to live. This point has shown that it is not ethical for a woman to abort the baby inside of her because it is a human who has according to the 14th Amendment of the constitution, “nor shall any state deprive any person of life,” (Legal Information Institute, n.d.).

Is it ethical for male politicians to make decisions that affect a woman’s body?

The second question is thrown into the realm of this debate often. The politician is a white male and therefore he cannot have a say on what decision a woman makes about her body. The first response to this is answered through the 1970 Supreme Court case Roe vs. Wade. This case ruled that a woman’s right to have an abortion is protected under the constitution up until viability. After viability has been reached it is up to the states to make the decision (Cornell Law, n.d.). In 1970, this case was decided upon by seven justices who were each white males. The argument that is often brought up in debates has little stance when you look at history and who the politicians are who have decided on case rulings and made state laws. This argument also makes the claim that men should not be involved when a woman is making the decision between keeping her baby or aborting it. This would include the father of the child. However, it is forgotten and/or ignored when the father of the child is forcing the woman to have the abortion. This is something that happens often, not just by the father but also if the woman is being trafficked. The ability to have an abortion has been abused by sex traffickers and by men within a toxic relationship (Novielli, C., 2021). Abortion has been used to allow women to be continually abused without the concern of having a baby. While laws that ban abortion after viability do not always stop these abusive relationships from forcing the woman to have an

illegal abortion, it does put into effect punishment towards the men who are abusive. The other side of this looks at the fathers and the men in the woman's life who want to keep the baby. This argument tells them that they do not have a say in the woman's decision, and that if he were to say something, it would be violating "my body, my choice." In one area, it is praised when a man forces a woman to have an abortion but if he shows that he cares about the life of the baby he is told he cannot give an opinion because it is a woman's choice. While many men do avoid having to take responsibility for the child, recent legislation in Oklahoma has been presented in HB3129 that if passed, will ensure that the father of the child would have to pay child support from the date of conception forward (Oklahoma HB3129, 2022). This forces the male to take responsibility and to also be held accountable for his actions. The question is, is it ethical for male politicians to make decisions that affect a woman's body? This is answered by showing that it is unethical to not allow men to be involved in this decision as men are also affected by decisions made about abortion. It also sets up a double standard that says men should not be allowed to be a part of these decisions unless they are supporting the abortion.

Is it ethical to abort a baby conceived in rape?

The final question examines the ethicality of aborting a baby conceived in rape. Rape is the main area where people will say they believe that abortion is acceptable. However, there are multiple aspects that arise when examining this topic, and the first one is the death penalty for the rapist. In the case of a rape, the rapist does not get the death penalty in the U.S., and that leads to the question: should the baby conceived in rape be aborted? The baby has already been shown to be a human being, and it did not commit any wrong while the rapist committed a horrific atrocity. Therefore, the baby is innocent. The question that then comes up is, why should the innocent child be aborted for a crime it did not commit? The answer is plainly that it should

not. It brings more damage to the mother when she has an abortion than if she were to keep the baby. The ethics behind this can be pulled from examining the sixth commandment which is thou shalt not kill. According to, "The Orthodox Presbyterian Church," the "Larger Catechism," there are several duties that are required when looking at the sixth commandment, and the first is "requiting good for evil," (Larger catechism: The Orthodox Presbyterian Church [OPC], n.d.). This allows us to see that when a rape happens it is understood to be evil. However, it cannot be made right by aborting the innocent baby as that is evil addressed with an evil (killing an innocent human). Returning the evil with good would be to give the baby a chance to live. The second aspect brought up is "protecting and defending the innocent." When a crime is committed, it is the duty of the people affected to protect the innocent woman and the child who was conceived (Larger catechism: [OPC], n.d.). After examining what the moral law has to say about the overall question of is it ethical to abort a baby conceived in rape, we have to also acknowledge the atrocity of rape for a woman. This will be looked at by two stories of women who were both raped. The first story comes from speaker Ashley Sigrest. Ashley was raped and became pregnant through that. Afterwards she had an abortion, but that abortion left her with fear and shame which eventually led to guilt over ending the innocent life of her child. The second story is from Lianna Rebolledo, who was raped by two men. Lianna chose to keep her baby and that has brought healing to her. It was the light that came out of the darkness. In Ashley's testimony she says "It wasn't a rapist's child. It was my child," (Live Action, n.d.). Ashley and Lianna both had horrific experiences, but while one woman found guilt after an abortion, the other found healing with keeping her child. In this point, it was seen that the ethical thing to do following a rape is to keep the innocent baby.

Conclusion

Political issues have brought controversy for centuries, and often these political issues should be discussed and debated. The topic of abortion is something that needs to be discussed and shown to be unethical. In this essay, we saw how it is unethical for a woman to abort her baby because it is proven to be a human being and therefore protected under the fourteenth amendment. Proving that the preborn baby is human laid the foundation for the following two questions. Allowing males to be a part of the decision is ethical as it forces them to take responsibility and also gives them the opportunity to be a father. Males in politics have too often forced abortion laws and it is time that society sees that this is not empowering women. Abortion in the case of rape is also shown to be unethical as it takes the life of the innocent third party. Abortion should not be a controversial topic because it is clear that it is the unjustified killing of an innocent human baby.

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