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## Abortion: A Matter of Life and Death

*by Haven Bradford Gow*

According to Dr. Monte Liebman, a pro-life psychiatrist in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, "If the adult world is genuinely concerned that children learn and live with respect for human values, it will take the first step toward that goal by putting forth ideas consistent with sustaining human life. It will not invoke laws and behaviors that are destructive of any human life from inception to the grave; it will adjust its own attitudes and behaviors so that it becomes an authentic, living model for its progeny."

As Presbyterians Pro-Life points out, "Scripture commonly refers to fertilization, rather than birth, as the moment of our beginning. God speaks to us as known, cared for, protected, and loved by Him before birth...The teaching of medical science regarding the unborn is consistent with Scripture. Scripture and science both show us that life begins at the moment of fertilization...Scripture forbids the destruction of innocent human life including unborn babies."

Frank Carlton, an attorney/legal scholar in Greenville, Mississippi, and the former District Attorney for Washington County, Mississippi, observes, "When there are competing rights, the more fundamental right (for example, the right to religious freedom) should take precedence over other rights (for example, the right to privacy)." In my view, this argument also should apply to abortion; the right to

life of the unborn child should take precedence over the right to privacy of the woman contemplating abortion.

But is this fetus residing within his or her mother's womb a human being from the time of conception or fertilization? In her contribution to The Silent Subject (Praeger), Brigham University philosophy teacher Camille Williams observes: "Both science and experience confirm the view of the unborn as individuals fundamentally like us. Many women have some personal knowledge of their unborn children. Unsurprisingly, many women who abort...carry the image of their unborn children with them. Most grieve for their loss, even as they defend their reproductive freedom."

Please consider:

Dr. Landrum Shettles, pioneer in sperm biology, fertility, and sterility, observes, "I oppose abortion. I do so...because I accept what is biologically manifest – that human life commences at the time of conception – and...because I believe it is wrong to take innocent human life under any circumstances." Dr. Watson Bowes, University of Colorado Medical School, states: "The beginning of a single human life is, from a biological point of view, a simple and straightforward answer: The beginning is conception."

Dr. Hymie Gordon, the late Mayo Clinic scholar/teacher/physician, declared: "By all the criteria of modern molecular biology, life is present from the moment of conception." Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth, Harvard Medical School, observes: "It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception."

The late European geneticist Dr. Jerome Lejeune stated, "The fetus is a human being. Genetically, he is complete." Dr. Eugene Diamond, past chairman of the pediatrics department of Loyola

University Medical School, Maywood, Illinois, says, "We no longer need to belabor the question of when human life begins; it begins incontrovertibly at the union of sperm and ovum. Surely the recent in vitro fertilization experiments have proved this beyond a doubt."

Certainly, then, abortion is the killing of innocent human beings. In word and deed, then, we must help restore a culture of life that affirms the sacredness of sex, marriage, family, and human life.

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