



For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am *fearfully and wonderfully made*. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:13–14)

CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

All human beings are made in the image of God. One of the many implications of being made in God's image is that we are distinct from the animals.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Genesis 1:26)

Every Person

Though marred by Adam's sin, every human being, both male and female, from the moment of fertilization, is made in God's image, regardless of one's level of development, physical or mental ability, ethnicity, or age.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

Immeasurable Value

All human life is precious because we are made in God's image. This fact explains why it is wrong to curse others (James 3:8–9) and why God prescribes a severe penalty for murder.

Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. (Genesis 9:6)

WE ARE ALL UNIQUE CREATIONS

Every human being has been uniquely created by God. At the very moment the sperm fertilizes the egg, an individual human possessing his or her own combination of DNA, half from the father and half from the mother, begins developing inside the mother.¹

Far from being merely a clump of cells, a blob of tissue, or a parasite inside the mother, the tiny person in the womb displays incredible complexity and purposeful design. The process of human development from fertilized egg to birth is a matchless wonder revealing the Creator's awe-inspiring creativity and care.



WHEN DOES HUMAN LIFE BEGIN?

This question lies at the heart of some highly contentious issues in our world. From a medical standpoint, there is only one logical answer: **life begins at fertilization**, when the chromosomes from the sperm and the egg combine, forming a genetically unique individual.

This was traditionally called the moment of conception, but in the past few decades, conception has often been redefined to refer to the processes from fertilization through implantation of the embryo in the womb. Our medical knowledge of this process has caused the debate to shift from "When does life begin?" to "When does personhood begin?" or "When does the unborn feel pain?" But these questions avoid the real issue: a human being made in the image of God is growing and developing within the mother from the moment of fertilization.



¹ Identical twins initially share identical DNA, but minor genetic variations arise due to factors related to DNA replication during their lifetimes.

WORLDVIEW IMPACT ON THE UNBORN

A person's position on origins and reality shapes how they view human life.

Since all people are made in the image of God, all human life from fertilization until death is precious. Therefore, the termination of human life through abortion and euthanasia are antithetical to the biblical worldview.

From a naturalistic evolutionary perspective, morality is arbitrary and human beings have no more inherent value than an animal, a blade of grass, a rock, or anything else. Thus, ending human life via abortion or euthanasia carries no moral implications and is consistent with the evolutionary philosophy built on death and suffering. As of January 2020, an estimated 60 million legal abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973. This is more than the population of California and New York combined.



COUNTERING POPULAR ARGUMENTS FOR ABORTION

Space does not permit a detailed answer to every argument for abortion, but brief responses are given to some in order to provide a proper perspective and illustrate how most of them distract from the real issue: the baby in the womb is a human being made in God's image (Genesis 1:26), and the Lord hates the shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6:16–17).

1) The embryo or fetus is just a clump of cells.

Ultrasounds and other medical advancements have shown this to be an outdated argument.

2) It's a woman's body, so it should be her choice.

The baby does develop inside of the mother whose body undergoes significant changes, but the baby is not part of the mother's body. A pregnant woman's body does not have four arms, four legs, and two heads. Abortion destroys the baby's body—not the mother's body.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

- 3) What if a woman became pregnant through rape or incest?

In these tragic situations, the baby should not be killed for someone else's immoral act. Also, rare situations like these should not be used as justification for abortion on demand at any time and for any reason.

- 4) The baby won't have a good life because they will be poor, disabled, etc.

Human value is not based on one's socio-economic status, health, or abilities. Offering the baby for adoption is a godly alternative for families who believe they are incapable of raising a child.

- 5) Pro-lifers just want to control women's bodies.

False. Many people in the movement are women, and more than half of aborted babies are female. The primary objection to abortion is that the procedure kills a human being.

- 6) It is inconsistent to be pro-life while being in favor of the death penalty.

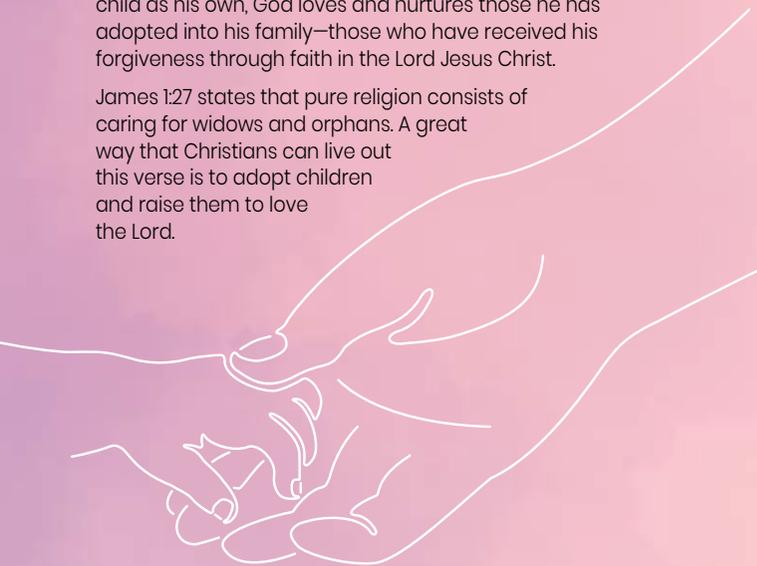
False. An abortion ends the life of the most innocent of lives while the death penalty is reserved for violent criminals.

ADOPTION—A GODLY ALTERNATIVE

Adoption is a godly alternative to abortion. It allows a mother to give her baby an opportunity to live while also blessing a family with a child they have longed for.

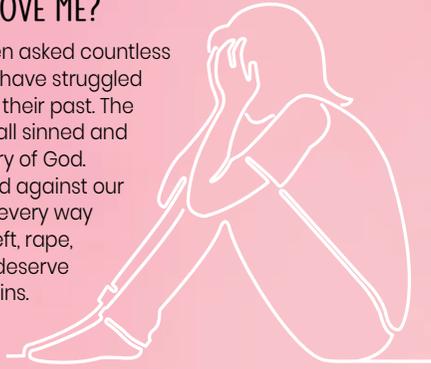
Romans 8:15 teaches that believers are adopted into God's family. Like a loving father who cares for someone else's child as his own, God loves and nurtures those he has adopted into his family—those who have received his forgiveness through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

James 1:27 states that pure religion consists of caring for widows and orphans. A great way that Christians can live out this verse is to adopt children and raise them to love the Lord.



CAN GOD STILL LOVE ME?

This question has been asked countless times by people who have struggled to come to grips with their past. The truth is that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Humans have rebelled against our perfectly holy God in every way imaginable—lying, theft, rape, murder, etc., and we deserve to be judged for our sins.



Other than Jesus, our biblical heroes were flawed individuals. Jacob deceived people, Rahab lived as a prostitute, and Peter denied Jesus three times. Moses, David, and Paul wrote large sections of the Bible, yet they either murdered people or condemned innocent people to death. But all these people found God's love, grace, and forgiveness.

GOD DESIRES TO FORGIVE YOU

It is difficult to understand why God would be willing to forgive people who have done terrible things. However, this notion overlooks the fact that every sin is a crime against our Creator, and the penalty for these crimes is eternal separation from God. It also fails to recognize his amazing love for sinners.



God loves us so much, and he has provided the means for us to be forgiven. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died in our place on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins. Then he demonstrated his power over death when he rose from the grave. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life are promised to "whoever believes in him" (John 3:15–18). Those who reject the Lord's sacrificial death will be separated eternally from him in a place called the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11–15).

Jesus Christ gave us this promise. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24).

For more information on life in the womb or to share your testimony with us, please visit CreationMuseum.org/baby.

If you seek guidance for healing or to learn about ways you can promote the sanctity of life, please visit HeartbeatInternational.org or Care-Net.org.

FEARFULLY &
WONDERFULLY
Made


CREATION
MUSEUM®