

## Looking at The Abortion Debate

Friday, June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. In 1973 the court ruled "A woman's choice to have an abortion outweighs the states concern for prenatal life- up until the point of viability." It said the right to an abortion is in the constitution. Until that time each state had its own laws on abortion but since Roe v. Wade, abortion has been performed in every state.

In Dobbs vs. Jackson's Women Health Organization, Mississippi passed a law banning abortion after fifteen weeks of conception. Dealing with this case the Court said, such a constitutional right does not exist. Reactions from pro-life and pro-choice groups was swift.

The Governor of Mississippi said, "This decision will directly result in more hearts beating, more strollers pushed, more report cards given, more little league games played, and more lives well lived. It is a joyous day!" (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-61928898>). While others said it set women's rights and "reproductive freedom back fifty years."

Democratic Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said that "the Republican-controlled Supreme Court" had achieved that party's "dark and extreme goal". "American women today have less than their mothers," she wrote. "This cruel ruling is outrageous and heart-wrenching."(same article)

Obviously, I am not a legal scholar and do not know all the arguments made in Dobbs. Vs. Jackson's Women Health Organization but I do think we should understand some issues concerning abortion, and be able to separate fact from fiction on abortion.

From a Biblical point of view, all human life is precious. Man was made in God's image, Genesis 1.26-27. He possesses a soul, is intelligent, and a free moral agent. These qualities separate mankind from everything else created by God in Genesis 1.

The taking of innocent life is termed "murder" in the Bible. After God flooded the whole earth He said, "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man." (Genesis 9:6). The Ten Commandments

it states, "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13) A murderer was to be put to death, Numbers 35.16). After the cross we see murder mentioned as one of the acts God condemns in Romans 1. 29, James 4.2.

Before anyone kills anything, the question should always be asked, "What is it we are thinking of killing?" What is inside the womb of the mother? Is it alive? A heart beat can be detected by ultrasound within five to six weeks of conception. Around this same time brain waves can also be detected. Not being a doctor, I think it is safe to say that the child within the womb is alive. Is it human? One half the DNA s child receives comes from Dad and half from Mom. Since both mom and dad are human, we can safely say that the child living and growing in the in the womb is human.

In an article "Science Is Giving the Pro-life Movement a Boast" the point is made that medicine and technology has dramatically changed since Roe v. Wade came out. Doctors and patients can now see the eyes, ears, arms, legs, and faces of the child inside the womb. "New technology makes it easier to apprehend the humanity of a growing child and imagine a fetus as a creature with moral status." This agrees with Psalm 139. "13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth." In the Bible there is no different word for the child inside or outside of the womb.

The separating of fact and fiction on abortion is my aim in the remainder of this article.

For many years the mantra of pro-choice was "abortions should be rare but safe." I am not sure how safe an abortion can be since every successful abortion terminates the life of a baby, but are abortions rare? Since 1973 there have been more than 64 million abortions in the U.S. In 2020 there was slightly less than one million abortions. This works out to 2740 per day. Folks this is not rare! There also seems to be the normalization of abortion. Numerous Hollywood Starlets have come out proudly speaking of their abortions. They minimize the emotional and other health effects of having the procedure.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade means all abortions have ended. Such is fiction.

Fact is the abortion issue goes back to each individual state. States such as Vermont, Maine, New York, Illinois, Rhode Island, and Virginia have laws allowing abortions up to the point of the child actually being born, in what are called partial birth abortions. California is actually advertising their pro-abortion position in order to inform women of where they can go for an abortion. Some states have what are called trigger laws in which abortions would be illegal if and when Roe v. Wade was overturned. In some of those states the Governors have stated they will not enforce the ban on abortions. As it is now, the state themselves in their legislatures will have to decide where they stand.

Fact or fiction, overturning Roe v. Wade makes the United States the most extreme country on outlawing abortions. This is fiction. Many countries have limitations on abortions. In Northern Ireland abortions are outlawed after 12 weeks, the same goes for France. In Germany abortions are illegal. I did not have time to look up every country's abortion laws but you can see my point. Few countries are as lax on abortion as the United States.

One final point. Those opposed to abortions and concerned about the baby in the womb, need to be concerned about the child outside the womb. We need to see what we can do in helping those in need. There are organizations such as Sacred Selections who help with the financial needs of parents wanting to adopt. – Dennis Tucker