

A Voice for the Voiceless

by Alyssa Stonebraker

When did “reproductive rights” expand to include the right to take another person’s life? People have several responses to this--excuses as to why they think they should be allowed the option to take their child’s life, why that is the right solution. I have news for you, abortion is never the answer. Taking another person’s life, especially that of an innocent human being that hasn’t even come into the world yet, is never the answer

The fetus is part of the woman’s body. That is what women say. A reason why they believe they should be allowed to take their child’s life. The body inside your body is not your body. Women do not have male genitalia, four eyes, ears, arms, legs, or two pairs of feet. The baby has different DNA, brain waves, blood type (typically), organs, and a different nervous system than the mother.

Another argument made is that the fetus is just a clump of cells. So are you. So am I. Does that mean that we should be allowed to put one another to death? I mean, we are, after all, just a clump of cells. This objection is merely a tactic for dehumanizing that which is clearly human so that the conscience is less moved and bothered when you murder the child.

Rape is one of the better arguments that women have for abortion, one that is a bit hard to debate unless you have been in a situation like that. However, my statement does not change. Abortion is not, and never will be, the answer. In some parts of India, when a woman is raped, she is seen as unclean. The family is so ashamed that she may be sold into prostitution, or male family members may even try to kill her--an innocent victim--to get rid of the embarrassment. We recoil in horror from that practice, and then we turn around in the U.S. and do the same thing to the other innocent victim--the baby. Don’t speak about human beings conceived in rape as though they have no purpose and ought to have been murdered in the womb. The answer to evil is never more evil.

A living entity is defined as a creature that can survive alone without outside aid. A two-year-old

child also fits this description. Is it okay to kill a two-year-old whenever I want? Many elderly people need outside aid to go on living, like medication or oxygen. Does that mean they can be killed too, no problem? Should we go ahead and never call 911 or an ambulance? After all, they're outside aid. An unborn child is not the only thing--the only living, breathing *human* thing that fits this description.

What about a baby who is horribly deformed? Isn't it better to spare that child a life of suffering? My question is, what kind of society are we creating by killing off sick or disabled human beings? People with limitations have a right to life just like so-called "normal" or healthy people. Prenatal tests cannot predict defects with certainty, nor can they determine the severity of the disability. Why not let these children be born and have a chance to grow and accomplish what they can? Do those of us who will die later have a right to kill those who will die sooner? No, we don't. Many people have a special burden for special-needs children. Instead of violently ending the child's life, place it up for adoption.

The last argument that I hear a lot is "keep your laws off *my* body". The thing is, though, is that it's not just the woman's body--the body inside your body is not your body. Shouldn't you keep your choice off your baby's body? He or she is the one who gets dismembered and sucked into a jar. Sure, you certainly have the right to control your body *before* you become pregnant, however, once you become pregnant, another body has come into existence--that of the child. Once the woman becomes pregnant, she has participated in bringing human life into being and needs to take responsibility for her actions.

Statistics show that too many people have chosen abortion instead of life. Every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day--that is 5,208 abortions every hour, 87 abortions every minute, and a little more than one abortion every single second. Let this sink in for a moment. For every second, an abortion has happened somewhere in the world. A murder of a life none of us will ever get to know. Abortion was named the leading cause of death in 2019 with 42 million killed. One last thing that you can let chew on your soul is that one out of every three women in America has had an abortion--this corresponds to 55,333,333 women and countless abortions.

Gianna Jesson is a woman who has gone through abortion, who was meant to be aborted. Her biological parents were just seventeen and her mother decided to go to Planned Parenthood. They told her she was “too young” to have a kid. They told her to have a saline abortion. This was late term--seven and a half months in. Saline salt solution was then injected into the womb. The baby was to gulp this solution, and then it would burn the baby from the inside and out. The baby would then be suffocated and she would deliver the baby dead. Because they were having a lot of babies living through this procedure, they decided to add a drug which would stop the baby's heartbeat. Gianna was burning for more than eighteen hours in her mother's womb. She was to be born dead. She was born alive and in an abortion clinic.

Gianna says “I believe in those eighteen hours were these wicked people trying to take me out, God was just holding me as a mother and father would because the Bible says when your mother and father forsake you, the Lord himself will take you up.” She believes that God was instilling in her a fire different than what they had intended--”they intended to snuff me out and he intended to rescue me and set in me a fire that can not be vanquished”. The abortionist was not on duty at six o'clock in the morning when she arrived alive. This gave the nurse time to call an ambulance and get her out of there. She was placed in an incubator weighing two pounds. After a few months, she was then placed into foster care. She was taken out of that home because she wasn't treated well, and then she was placed in another foster home. By this time she was seventeen months old and thirty-two pounds of deadweight--in other words, unable to move. And so, they concluded, Gianna will never be able to function. She was never to be able to even as much as raise her head. Today she is able to speak, sing, move without help, run marathons--everything that you and I are able to do, she is able to do too. They said there was no way for her to live...she is still living.

So, why is abortion wrong you might ask? It's wrong because that child that women say are “just a clump of cells”, “a part of the woman's body”, “unable to survive alone”--yeah, them--they are a living thing. They have a heart and lungs and organs and fingers and toes and arms and legs--they have

everything that you and I have. The definition of a cell is the smallest structural and functional unit of an organism. What's an organism? I'll give you a hint, it's a living thing. We all start out in the mother's womb, we all start out unable to survive alone, but we learn how to, if we are given the chance to live.

By six weeks, your baby's heart--now beating at 110 times a minute--has four hollow chambers, each with an entrance and an exit to allow blood to flow in and out of each chamber. In just two more weeks, the beat will rise to 150-170 beats per minute. Again, the baby has a heart, brain, nervous system, DNA--everything that you and I have. The body inside your body is not your body! A baby is a human being, created in God's image, just as the mother is. Both lives must be upheld as equally valuable.

Another painful factor is that it's scientifically proven that a baby feels pain as early as thirteen weeks of gestation. Abortion advocates have long argued that young children in the womb are incapable of feeling pain because of the immaturity of the nervous system. However, this was proven wrong. "The cortex appears not to be necessary for the *perception* of pain but rather the modulation and interpretation. Pain probably enters awareness at the subcortical levels, which are well-developed in early fetal life. The neurosurgical treatment of chronic pain often involves cortical stimulation, which seems to suppress the experience of pain. What this means is that an unborn child with an immature brain most likely experiences pain more intensely than an individual with a mature cortex." More intensely than you and I. It would hurt more for the baby to get sucked into a jar than it would if it would be you or I.

If raising a child isn't for you, whatever reason you may have for this, there are alternatives rather than just killing the child. There are a few different types of adoption that you could choose. There is closed adoption, where there is no contact with your child. However, there is also open adoption where you are still able to have contact if you would wish to do that. Then, lastly, there is direct placement adoption which is where you choose the adoptive family.

Pros to choosing adoption is that you give someone who can't have children the chance to raise a child, you give the child the opportunity to have a lifestyle or family you can't provide, and you can

focus on school, work, or other needs if you aren't ready to be a parent. There are some cons as well. You permanently give up parenting rights and you may disagree with how the adoptive parents raise the child.

Another alternative to abortion is legal guardianship. Like adoption, guardianship involves placing your child with another person or family and allowing them to raise the child. By choosing a guardian instead of an adoptive family, you keep some of your parental rights. This option may be a good choice for you if you can't raise a child right now but see your circumstances changing in a few years, or if you know you want to stay closely involved in your child's life. It may also involve monthly child support payments.

Pros to choosing legal guardianship is that you can still see the child, you may have a say in some decisions, like religion or healthcare, guardianship can be temporary, and typically you choose the child's guardian. However, there are some cons. For example, you might disagree with the guardian's parenting approach, you might have a hard time seeing someone else raise the child, and, lastly, it might be painful for the child and guardian when you are able to take back custody of the child.

Hopefully you are able to see that abortion is not the answer. There are many different alternatives that you can choose rather than violently ending a child's life--someone who is, in fact, alive. The science community has for decades misrepresented the straightforward science of conception and fetal development for ideological reasons. Children in the womb are the obvious *victims* of this scientific fraud and we need to fight and be the voice for the voiceless.