

SLAVERY, THE HOLOCAUST AND ABORTION:

The terrible things we do when we ignore the teachings of Science and the Bible

SCIENCE

Historical Origin of Human Beings

Anthropologists, archaeologists, geneticists and other scientists have found that all modern humans (Homo sapiens) are related through common ancestors who date back at least two million years. Our DNA reveals that all human beings since that time are genetic relatives!

Origin of Individual Human Lives.

Biologists, geneticists and other life scientists have determined that the life of an individual human being begins at fertilization, when a human male's sperm joins a human female's egg. Twenty-three of its chromosomes come from the father, and twenty-three come from its mother, making it a unique human being, different from all others. At fertilization, all the individual's personal characteristics – sex, potential size, eye, skin and hair color, propensity for certain diseases, etc., are determined. The fertilized egg (zygote) is programmed to commence its own development and its life as a blastocyst, embryo, fetus, infant, child, adolescent and adult are simply stages of development affecting the same unique human being.

THE BIBLE

Made in God's Image.

The Bible teaches that human beings are made by God to reflect God's image.

- *Genesis 1:27. "God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them."*

Our founding fathers recognized God as our Creator when they adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Because we are made in God's image, killing innocent human beings is forbidden.

- *Genesis 9:6. "If anyone sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has man been made."*
- *Exodus 20:13 "You shall not kill."*
- *Deuteronomy 24:16 "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children for their fathers; only for his own guilt shall a man be put to death."*

God Recognizes Human Beings as Persons, Even in the Womb.

- *Jeremiah 1:4-5 "The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you."*
- *Psalms 139:13-14, 16. "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb.... My very self you knew. Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be."*

When human beings forget that we are all related to one another, that each one's life begins at fertilization (conception), that we are made in God's image and recognized as persons from conception, and therefore have dignity and deserve to be nurtured and protected, terrible things happen. Three examples are slavery in America, the Holocaust in Europe, and legal abortion in the United States. We can observe various parallels in these occurrences, and the social structures that promote and sustain them.

VERBAL OPPRESSION

Someone once said, "If you use the right words, you can get away with murder." Thus, killing an innocent human being in the womb is referred to as "choice," "reproductive health care," and "selective reduction." In his book, *Dehumanizing the Vulnerable: When Word Games Take Lives*, William Brennan states, "The power of language to color one's view of reality is profound. In many instances the most significant factor determining how an object will be perceived is not the nature of the object itself, but the words employed to characterize it." Noting our ability to rationalize and justify our actions, he explains, "Linguistic reduction of victims to an insignificant, despicable, or dangerous level helps stimulate the kind of destructive thinking that leads to destructive actions. The victims are cast in such a negative or inconsequential light that whatever is done to them, no matter how horrendous, is considered perfectly justifiable."¹ We reproduce Brennan's table of actual quotes below which forcefully illustrate his assertions.²

TABLE 1 THE SEMANTICS OF OPPRESSION

Dehumanizing Terminology	<u>The Vulnerable Victims</u>		
	African Americans	European Jews	Unwanted Unborn
Deficient Human	A subordinate, inferior class of beings	The inferior Jewish race	The fetus represents only potential life.
Non-Human	The negro is not a human being.	Jews are a race, but not human.	A fetus is not a human being.
Animal	The negro is one of the lower animal.	The prisoners here are animals.	Like a primitive animal
Parasite	They are parasites.	The Jew is a parasite.	The fetus is a parasite.
Disease	Free blacks are a contagion.	Europe will perish of the Jewish disease.	Unwanted pregnancy is a venereal disease.
Inanimate Object	A negro is an article of property.	Jews are transit material.	People's embryos are their personal property
Waste Product	The negro race is organic/psychic debris.	What shall we do with this garbage?	An aborted baby is just garbage—refuse.
Non-person	In the eyes of the law, the slave is not a person.	Jews are not persons in the legal sense.	The word "person" does not include the unborn.

LEGAL OPPRESSION

Words lead to action, so if we ignore the teachings of science and the Bible, our verbal oppression is often followed by legal oppression. Unfortunately, many people believe that what is legal is right. Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke provide us with another table depicting the similarities between our legal justification for slavery and abortion³ to which we add further parallels in the treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany and Europe.

TABLE 1 LEGAL OPPRESSION AND DISCRIMINATION

	African Americans	German Jews	Unborn Humans
Earlier History	Slavery permitted in colonial America. Outlawed in northern states by 1804	Citizens of Germany	Protected by English Common law; then state laws beginning in the 1820's
Court Decisions	Supreme Court votes 7-2 Dred Scott vs. Sanford in 1857: persons of African descent can't be citizens.	Nuremberg Laws 1935: Jews no longer citizens, only subjects.	Supreme Court votes 7-2 Roe vs. Wade in 1973: unborn are not "persons" protected by the 14 th amendment.
Legal Result	Slave property of owner who is free to buy, sell or treat as he chooses.	Persecution, deportation, slave labor	Unborn is property of mother who is free to keep or abort
Practical Result	Thousands mistreated, denied education. Persecution continues after emancipation.	Six million Jews executed.	Over 55 million killed between 1973 and 2012; killing continues.
Justifications	1. Blacks better off as slaves; ill equipped to cope in a harsh world. 2. An owner has a right to do what he wants with his own property	1. Purity of Aryan race is protected. 2. Germany need "lebensraum" (living space)	1. Baby better off than being born in poverty or unwanted. 2. A woman has a right to do what she wants with her own body.
Arguments vs. Critics	If you don't like slavery, don't have a slave, but don't force your morality on others.	Germany must protect itself and fulfill its destiny. Mind your own country's affairs.	If you don't like abortion, don't have one, but don't force your morality on others.

History shows that once we accept the killing of our fellow human beings to solve personal or social problems, the circles of whom we may kill and the reasons for which we may kill grow wider and wider. This was demonstrated in Nazi Germany, for example, which euthanized the mentally and physically handicapped among its own citizens before it executed Jews and other "undesirables" or "useless eaters." Indeed, as the Willkes have shown⁴, the arguments justifying abortion can be used to justify euthanasia, as we may see in Table 3.

TABLE 3 REASONS JUSTIFYING ABORTION AND EUTHANASIA/ASSISTED SUICIDE

Reason	Abortion	Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide
Usefulness	A burden	A burden
Wantedness	Unwanted	Unwanted
Degree of Perfection	Handicapped; not fully developed.	Handicapped; lost functions.
Age	Too young.	Too old.
Intelligence	Not yet conscious	Not really conscious anymore
Place of residence	In the womb.	In a nursing home.
“Meaningful Life”	Not yet capable of.	No longer capable of.
Cost	Mother/family too poor	Family/society can’t afford medical care.
Numbers	Too many; overpopulation.	Too many unproductive elderly in society.

It is well to remember that “What goes around, comes around” and that while many of us will never be pregnant, being males, or will no longer become pregnant, the vast majority of us will grow old and experience varying degrees of disability. Let us work toward a society that returns to a respect for the dignity and sanctity of all human life.

If we acknowledge that all human beings are related, and that the life of an individual human being begins at fertilization (conception), as well as the fact that we are all persons created in God’s image, we can achieve the ultimate goal of the pro-life movement – “an amendment to the U. S. Constitution ... that will give equal protection under the law to all living humans from the time their biologic life begins ... until natural death.”⁵ In doing so, we will also better confront the looming 21st century threats of abortion, euthanasia/assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research, cloning, the over-production of human embryos for in vitro fertilization, and the production of chimeras (human-animal hybrids) and cyborgs (human-machine cybrids).⁶

References

1. William Brennan, *Dehumanizing the Vulnerable: When Word Games Take Lives*, Toronto, ON: Life Cycle Books Ltd., 1995, pp. 1 and 3.
2. Ibid. We have abbreviated some of the quotes for the sake of space. For the exact, full quote, with the authors (sometimes judges, professors and doctors) and date given, see Brennan, pp. 6-7. Brennan’s table also includes the following vulnerable victims: women, Native Americans, Soviet enemies and humans who are “dependent discards.”

3. John C. (Jack) and Barbara H. Willke, *Why Can't We Love Them Both?*, Cincinnati, OH: Hayes Publishing Co., Inc., 1997, pp. 25-27.
4. John C. (Jack) and Barbara H. Willke, *Abortion: Questions and Answers*, Cincinnati, OH: Hayes Publishing Co., Inc., 2003, p.232. We have modified some of the chart for clarity.
5. Ibid. p. 3.
6. For a fuller, but short discussion of these topics, see Daniel Becker, *Personhood*, TKS Publications: Alpharetta, GA, 2011, especially Chapters 4 and 5. (Available at Amazon.com).

Other sources of information consulted:

William L. Shirer, *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, N.Y.: Simon and Schuster, 1960.

Wikipedia. Accessed December, 2013.

- "Abortion in the United States."
- "Human Evolution."
- "Slavery in the United States."

Compiled and written by Raymond J. Adamek, Ph.D.

December 11, 2013