


Abortion is a Constitutional Right

(Response to Robin cont'd.)

Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth, Harvard University Medical School: "It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive.... It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception.... Our laws, one function of which is to help preserve the lives of our people, should be based on accurate scientific data."

Abortion takes the life of an innocent human being. We as a society do not allow the taking of innocent life in any other context. Human beings have an inalienable right to life. The Declaration of Independence asserts: "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." The 14th Amendment to the Constitution reaffirms the right to "life, liberty, or property".

...All human beings should be supported and protected. The position of valuing one human life over another is the very basis of oppression throughout the world. Every human life has intrinsic value. When we start to put people in categories, we all eventually are put at risk.

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Robin [REDACTED]

We can argue over when a few divided cells become a human being and never settle it. The question on abortion is that of body autonomy which is a critical component to the right to privacy that is protected by the Constitution. See *Griswold vs Connecticut* (1965), *McFall vs Shimp* (1978) and *Roe vs Wade* (1973). The same way you cannot force someone to donate bone marrow or their organs after death to save a life, you cannot force the use of a woman's uterus to save a life. It must be voluntary. Whether or not you think it moral or immoral, the law is clear. A woman has the right to decide for herself.

Robin, please consider the body autonomy of the unborn child. The unborn baby is a separate body - a separate human. As a human being she has certain inalienable rights - the right to life being one of them. The woman's right to body autonomy is best exercised before she and her partner have created another living human being.

We should not punish women who find themselves in an unintended pregnancy. We should provide a full generous spectrum of resources. Neither should we punish the unborn human by ending its life. Respectfully, there are two bodies and two humans involved.

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Emily [REDACTED]

The Supreme Court decided it was constitutional. In 1973 the Supreme Court issued a 7-2 decision ruling that the due process clause of the 14th amendment to the constitution provides the right to privacy which protects pregnant women's right to choose whether or not they get an abortion. ...stop trying to force other people into what you want.

Emily, regarding your premise that those standing up to protect human beings are intrusive and coercive, isn't the act of abortion an ultimate violation and violence against another human being? Also, we as human beings have not only the right but the responsibility to protect the vulnerable. Mahatma Gandhi said, "the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members."

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Festus [REDACTED]

No they don't (have a Constitutional right to life), not unless mom says they do. Because without her the cells can't survive and SHE is the one in control of her body...

Festus, the constitution is very clear that each person has a Right to Life. Slavery once divided our nation upon state lines. That fundamental division regarding the value of black people was wrong. So now this system of valuing human life differently from state to state is wrong. Our nation's body of law is all about establishing universal, objective human rights. Our human rights should be protected on the objective basis of humanity. A person is a human and a human is a person. Every human life has intrinsic value. When we start to put people in categories, we all eventually are put at risk.

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Nancy [REDACTED]

...Not everyone subscribes to your religion or any religion and the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. Why do your religious beliefs supersede another person's right to bodily autonomy? The argument is religious, not scientific.

Nancy, thank you for your thoughts. Respectfully, the definition of human life is a scientific, biological issue. At fertilization, all 46 chromosomes scientifically identifying the being as a human being are in place. The fetus is a **biologically** unique human being - **genetically separate** from their mother or father. So, this is also a civic issue. The FIRST right enumerated in our Declaration of Independence is the Right to Life. That foundational right is reaffirmed in our Constitution and throughout our nation's body of law....

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Rob [REDACTED]
Abortions for all.

Rob, human beings have an inalienable right to life explicitly stated in the Declaration of Independence and the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Each human life begins at conception. The fusion of the egg and sperm creates a being with its own unique set of DNA — separate from that of its mother or father. That unique human needs only time and nourishment to continue its journey along the same continuum of life we are all on. There are about 2,363 innocent American lives lost to abortion every day. We as a society do not allow the taking of an innocent life in any other context.