


Life Begins at Viability

(Response to Maria cont'd.)

Scientifically life begins at conception. At conception, the sperm and egg create a new human being with its own unique set of DNA - different from its mother's or father's. Therefore, that new human being is due the same fundamental right to life that each human is accorded. Feel free to visit our website for great information regarding fetal development – beginning at conception.

www.youranswer matters.org

If a pregnant woman is killed, the person responsible for her death is sometimes charged for the death of the baby, as well. How can we justify abortion just because the fetus requires time and nourishment in order to develop into a full-term baby?

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Marianne [REDACTED]

Life "begins" when it can survive independently of the host...preferably without needing tens of millions of dollars worth of medical equipment to keep it alive yet suffering and living a life of constant torment until even nature says "No, let the poor suffering creature find peace and dignity in death." But who cares about the quality of life when you're whole PoV is based on your personal fee-fees and not the actual health and welfare of others.

Marianne, your position of determining the value of a person's life based on dependency and presupposed outcomes is very subjective and not grounded in fact. Firstly, what makes the unborn's dependence different from the dependence of a newborn, a child, or a person who is experiencing a medical emergency? Those people also will not survive apart from the help of caregivers. In the case of medical emergencies, we as a society compassionately deliver care based on need - generally not on a financial calculus.

Secondly, you seem to be assuming that all preemies are doomed to a life of handicaps and suffering. That is simply not true. Compassion dictates that each person's life is valued equally - that includes the unborn, the handicapped, the infirm and the elderly - whether or not they are in a state of dependency.

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Barry [REDACTED]

this never has been the issue. the issues are, when is the fetus viable to live outside the womb and at what point must the fetus be sacrificed in the interests of the woman? life is far more complicated than speculating when life begins. those who engage in such sophistry care little about the quality of life.

Barry, there is not speculation scientifically as to when human life begins. At conception a unique, identifiable new member of the human species is formed. Our human rights should be based on the objective foundation of CORE identity. Humans have human rights - the first of which is a Right to Life. Your argument is based on subjective ever-shifting criteria - "quality of life" and "viability". Subjective criteria to value humans is the basis of oppression. That same subjective logic has resulted in the oppression of minority groups, women, the handicapped, Jews, etc. For something as important as the protection of human rights an objective standard of CORE human identity must be used. Please consider this quote.

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."

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Kirk [REDACTED]

Nobody cares when human life begins. Humans have rights when they don't need a host body

Kirk, unfortunately that is the issue. The pro-choice argument devalues human life. With its own unique set of DNA, a fetus has just as much of a right to life as you or I do. The constitution itself grants each person the fundamental right to life. If a pregnant woman is killed, the person responsible for her death is sometimes charged for the death of the baby, as well. How can we justify abortion just because the fetus requires time and nourishment in order to develop into a full-term baby?

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Mark [REDACTED]

Viable means able to live without the placenta and the oxygen and nutrients it provides. Usually that means able to breathe. Typically that's 24 weeks, and never before 21.

Mark, viability doesn't determine someone's worth. Every human being has the Constitutional Right to Life. Life begins when 23 chromosomes from the father and 23 chromosomes from the mother combine to form a separate and unique individual.

Prenatal surgery is done routinely now on pre-born babies — those babies are not yet breathing air. They receive their oxygen via their mother's placenta. The babies are most certainly deemed scientifically alive and medically a separate patient from their mother.


WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Robin [REDACTED]

At viability is when a fetus is deemed a human being and not before!

What is your reasoning for using viability as the marker for protecting a baby's life? Genetically a unique human being begins at conception when the 23 chromosomes from the mother and 23 chromosomes from the father combine. From conception until death that DNA will identify that unique human. Viability doesn't determine someone's worth. Every human being has the Constitutional Right to Life. The pro-choice argument devalues human life. With its own unique set of DNA, a fetus has just as much of a right to life as you or I do. If a pregnant woman is killed, the person responsible for her death is sometimes charged for the death of the baby, as well. How can we justify abortion just because the fetus is in a dependent state? Aren't children and the infirm in states of dependence? Should their continued existence be questioned?

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Robin 
Roe correctly put human rights at viability. It is not a person before that.

Robin, even Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was a staunch supporter of abortion, articulated that Roe was a poorly crafted decision. Viability certainly is not a sound basis to determine a human's life because it is shifting. Even since Roe, the age of viability has become less due to progress in neonatal care. Robin, a person is a human and a human is a person. Scientifically each human life begins at conception.