

Life Begins with Sentience/Brain Activity

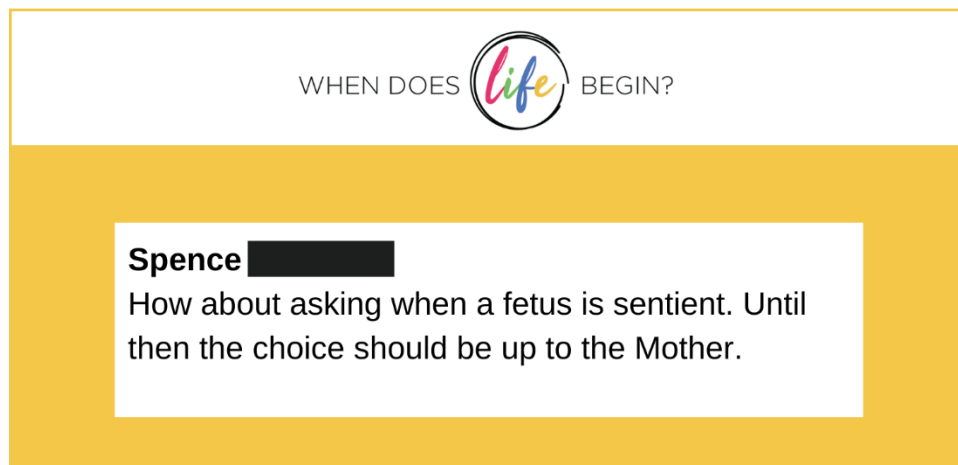
(Response to Braun cont'd.)

Click [here](#) for a citation from the New England Journal of Medicine. J.Goldenring "Development of the Fetal Brain" New England Journal Of Medicine, August 26, 1982 P564

The heart actually begins to beat around 21 days. Click [here](#) for a citation from the National Center for Biotechnology information.

Lack of brain activity should not be a deciding factor. Even brain death is still a very undefined term with inaccurate testing. There have been many cases of people declared brain dead who then woke up and had normal brain functioning. Follow this link for a dramatic story from the Washington Post:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/12/23/texas-man-says-he-went-to-jail-for-swat-standoff-that-saved-sons-life/>.



Spence, brainwaves are detectable as early as six weeks in utero — keyword "detectable." Regardless, human life biologically begins at conception biologically. DNA is the scientific identifier of life. At conception a new human being with its own unique set of DNA — separate from that of its mother or father - is created. Sentience itself is not well-defined and is very subjective.

What about the person in a medical emergency who is temporarily non-responsive. Have they lost their humanity? Some people think advanced AI will achieve sentience soon. Will that make computers human? Again, DNA is the criteria used by scientists to identify life forms. Our human rights should be protected on the objective basis of humanity - not on the subjective, fluid criteria of "sentience".

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Josh [REDACTED]

Eyup. People start forming emotional attachments to a hypothetical person before said person exits. 'you' are the cognitive functions in your head. Not breathing. not heartbeat. The thoughts and feelings and collecting and processing of data in higher functions. That is when personhood begins...

Josh, saying a person is "hypothetical" does not make it so. You ignore the scientific fact that DNA is the identifier of life for plants, animals, and humans. It is illogical not to apply that scientific standard at the beginning of life. The DNA does not change — nothing genetically is added from conception until a person dies at say 100! Cognizance is not a known or constant criteria.

Modern research has determined that the unborn are thinking and learning while still in the womb. Newborn babies will respond to voices they heard and even stories that were read to them prior to birth. Thinking does not begin at birth. Also, what about someone who is in a coma due to an accident or medical problem? While they are unconscious, unaware, and "unthinking," have they become "unhuman" temporarily? For something as important as human life we need an objective criteria. Not a standard that is subjective and changing.

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Barry [REDACTED]

...Scientifically speaking, I'd say life begins in the third trimester. You can't be a person without a brain, Marjorie Taylor Green being the exception. Higher brain function does not begin until the third trimester.

It's also important to note, the only third term abortions that occur are when the life of the mother is threatened or the fetus is unviable, organs developing outside the body etc..., when, even if delivered alive, the baby would only have a very short existence of pain and suffering.

This is why I say the evangelical right and other deluded religious fanatics are the American Taliban.

Barry...you state that higher brain function does not occur until the third trimester. By the second trimester, fetuses will startle at loud noises and may even turn toward a familiar voice. REM sleep which

indicates dreaming begins in the second trimester. <https://www.verywellfamily.com/everything-you-need-to-know-about-fetal-brain-development-4707581>

...you state incorrectly that third trimester abortions only occur when the mother's life is threatened or if the fetus is not viable. Currently 6 states and the District of Columbia have no statutory limits on abortion. Those states are Alaska, Colorado, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon and Vermont.

<https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/state-indicator/gestational-limit-abortion/currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

What is your response to the discriminatory nature of abortion? Did you know that abortion has been used to practically eliminate people with Down Syndrome? According to the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, absent selective abortion there would be 80% more babies with Down Syndrome born each year. What about the racial discrimination that is pervasive? According to a Centers for Disease Control report for the year 2020, black babies comprised 39.2% of abortions despite the fact that black Americans were only 12.4% of the population in 2020.

<https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/republicans/2022/3/down-syndrome-and-social-capital-assessing-the-costs-of-selective-abortion>

- <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/01/11/what-the-data-says-about-abortion-in-the-u-s-2/>