

## It's About Personhood

WHEN DOES  BEGIN?

Brian [REDACTED]

A tiny clump of newly-formed cells shouldn't have the power to force an actual "born person" to do anything. Seems ridiculous to even have to say that

Brian, "Actual born person"? Are you suggesting that life begins at birth/independent survival? Premies are now routinely saved as early as 22 weeks. On June 5, 2020 — Richard Hutchinson was born at just 21 weeks! <https://www.washingtonpost.com/.../premature-baby.../> Was Richard fully human at 21 weeks simply because he had exited the birth canal? He still was completely dependent. Is a toddler or young child any less worthy of life than an adult just because it relies on its parents for survival? From conception until death, a human being will continue to grow, change, and age.. At conception, the egg and sperm fuse to create a human being with its own unique set of DNA, separate from that of its mother and father. From conception, the embryo is genetically human and that does not change.

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Samantha [REDACTED]

Personhood begins at birth.

Samantha, the "person" vs. "human" argument is often used to devalue human life. A person is a human and a human is a person. Every human being has the Constitutional Right to Life. Therefore, a better question might be, "What is your definition of a human being?" For something as irreplaceable as a human life, an objective criteria — such as genetics — should determine humanity. Scientifically, human life begins at conception. DNA is the scientific identifier of plants, animals and humans. At conception a new human being with its own unique set of DNA — separate from that of its mother or father begins life.



Kurt [REDACTED]

When Does Life Begin What you mean is that an embryo is a potential human. I give more rights to what is and has been for many years than I do what might be if everything goes just right.

Kurt, there is no "potential" because it is a human being from conception. The fusion of the egg and sperm creates a human being with its own unique set of DNA — separate from that of its mother or father. DNA is the scientific identifier for plants, animals and humans. A human is a human. The position of valuing one human life over another is the very basis of oppression throughout the world. When we start to put people in categories, we all eventually are put at risk.



Jennifer [REDACTED]

Mind your own business. An embryo or fetus is NOT the same as an actual person. Try conversing with a fetus the size of your thumb and tell us how the conversation goes. 😊 If you're against abortion it's super easy to just not have one. No need to force others to breed against their will.

Jennifer, from conception until death, a human being will continue to grow, change, and age. A human is a human regardless of the stage of growth. At conception, the egg and sperm fuse to create a human being with its own unique set of DNA, separate from that of its mother and father. From conception, the embryo is genetically human and that does not change. We definitely agree that bodily autonomy is important. Therefore, should we not protect the bodily autonomy of the fetus - a separate human life? It would seem that the correct place to exercise bodily autonomy is prior to intercourse - when the woman can rightly exercise control over her own body. Once conception has occurred, she would then be exercising control over another's body - the fetus'. 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.