

Theme: Human life begins at conception and we should treasure each life as a gift from God's hand and a sign of His amazing work.

I. Intro – January 22, 1973

- A. The infamous date of *Roe v. Wade*
- B. Justice Harry Blackmun wrote the decision
- C. Declared fetus not a person but “potential life”
- D. Since then approaching 45-50 million abortions
- E. But not really human babies - or are they?
- F. When does life really begin? Does Scripture say?

II. The Beginning of Human Life In Scripture

- A. A Word about our source - the Scripture
 - 1. My argument will entirely come from Scripture
 - 2. Not because reason, science, medicine disagree
 - 3. We are the Church - we look to Scripture
 - 4. This is my area of expertise - others can speak to other areas
- B. Psalm 139 - Immense Presence & Knowledge of God
 - 1. Psalmist - God's Immense Presence & Knowledge
 - 2. Includes knowing our thoughts; nowhere to flee, etc.
 - 3. Even penetrates into womb - which was mysterious
- C. God and the child in the womb (Ps 139:13-16)
 - 1. God sees the child in the womb (vv15-16)
 - a. My frame not hidden (v15); your eyes saw (v16)

- b. Secret place, depths of the earth (v15)
 - c. Could not see in womb - but God could!
 - d. Body still unformed - but God sees! (v16)
 - e. 3D sonogram of Owen - God has always seen
- 2. God forms and fashions the child (vv13-14)
 - a. God creates and knits child in womb (v13)
 - b. God's work - us - is wonderful! (v14)
 - c. Job 31:15 - God forms us in the womb
- 3. God's call begins in the womb (v16)
 - a. God has ordained plans for the child
 - b. This plan is from before any days come to pass
 - c. Isaiah 49:1 ESV - called and named from the womb
 - d. Jeremiah 1:5 - called, set apart from womb
 - e. Galatians 1:15 ESV - set apart from the womb
- 4. God relates to the child in the womb as a person
 - a. Same person - me, my, I - in womb as out (vv13-16)
 - b. Psa 22:10 KJV - from womb you have been my God
 - c. Luke 1:15 ESV - filled with Spirit in womb
 - d. Luke 1:41-44 - John leaped for joy - in the womb!
- 5. Our sin nature begins from moment of conception
 - a. Psalm 51:1-5 - Note how David takes responsibility
 - b. Psalm 51:5 - David says sinful from conception
 - c. We bear Adam's guilt as a human from conception

d. Can only be true if human life begins at conception

D. Jesus was conceived to experience all of human life

1. Luke 1:31 ESV - You will conceive in your womb
2. Matt 1:20-23 ESV - conceived; virgin conceives
3. Apostles Creed - conceived of the Holy Spirit
4. He was not just born - conceived - fully human
5. In Incarnation He became fully human
 - a. Conception to death
 - b. He thus sanctified each stage of human existence

E. When does human life begin? - At Conception!

1. God sees the child in the womb
2. God forms and fashions us in the womb
3. God has a call for us in the womb
4. God relates to us as a person while we in the womb
5. We have a sinful human nature from conception
6. Jesus' incarnation began at conception

III. Applying the Word

A. Do we understand that human life begins at conception?

1. Many in our culture try to confuse this issue
2. Many speak of potential life rather than humanity
3. Many try to reframe the debate - choice; rights

4. Only one real question - when does human life begin?

5. God's Word is crystal clear - human from conception

6. Do buy into the lies!

B. Do we treasure, value, and celebrate life?

1. The Psalmist stood in awe of life - do we?
2. Do we treasure life - conception to death?
3. Do we value life - conception to death?
4. Do we celebrate life - conception to death?
5. This week - celebrate the joy that is life!!

C. Do we share the life of Christ with people?

1. Each person we meet is a treasure!
2. CS Lewis quote - no mere mortals
3. Love your neighbors as real people of worth
4. Share with your neighbors as real people of worth

D. Prayer for us and our nation

When Does Human Life Begin?

Psalm 139:13-16
January 22, 2012
Prayer
Psalm 128:5-6

Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers? Job 31:15

Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. Isaiah 49:1 (ESV)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” Jeremiah 1:5

But when he who had **set me apart before I was born (literally - from my mothers womb)**, and who called me by his grace.... Galatians 1:15 ESV

I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother’s belly. Psalms 22:10 KJV

He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. Luke 1:15

When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb**, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 **As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.** Luke 1:41–44

Have mercy on **me**, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out **my transgressions**. 2 Wash away all **my iniquity** and cleanse me from **my sin**. 3 For I know **my transgressions**, and **my sin** is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have **I sinned** and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 **Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.** Psalms 51:1–5

And behold, **you will conceive in your womb** and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. Luke 1:31

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for **that which is conceived in her** is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, **the virgin shall conceive** and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). Matthew 1:20–23 ESV (quoting Isaiah 7:14)

I believe in God the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth.
And In Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord; **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit**, born of the Virgin Mary...

Apsotles Creed

“It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities... that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations — these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.” – C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory