

# Answering the Top 10 Reasons that Abortion Should Be Legal

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • May 22, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022  
Scripture Reader and Reading: Mike Crisp – Luke 1.39–41  
Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

## **Prelude:**

### **I. The timing of my sermon is not related to the recent leak**

A. of what might be an overturn of Roe v. Wade,

1. at least not in my mind.
2. Perhaps it is in the Lord's mind and timing.

B. A few weeks ago,

1. Wayne Duncan presented to Dan Calvert and me
2. that a group here in Oregon
  - a) had sent him and Gloriann
  - b) a model of a twelve-week old fetus,
    - (1) inside a small blanket
    - (2) with a business-sized card placed inside,
      - (a) describing the development of a child in the womb.
      - (b) He thought that it would be good to give to our young people.

C. We urged him to order more, and

1. I urged him to order enough
2. that we could pass one out to every family (almost every person), and
  - a) I added that I could preach a sermon on it
  - b) after the order comes in and we could hand them out after my sermon.

### **II. So, it was not my timing, but**

A. it may have been the Lord's timing

1. that I deliver this sermon today and

2. that we pass out these life-size models.

B. This whole issue is on everyone's mind

1. in a way that it has probably never been before.

### **III. I will present to you,**

A. what ListLand . com says are

B. "Top 10 Reasons Abortion Should Be Legal."

1. However, I found quickly

2. that I cannot answer them all in one sermon.

a) Next Lord's Day, I will be gone and

b) Tim Braden will speak in my place.

(1) The Lord's day after that,

(a) Lord willing,

(2) I will answer the last six reasons.

### **Persuasion:**

#### **I. 1st Reason: "My Body, My Choice" – Women have the right to choose what to do with their body.**

A. Of course, they do.

1. The vast majority of abortions occur because

a) the woman made a choice to fornicate and

b) a baby resulted.

(1) Few of these women and young women who become with child,

(2) conceived in marriage, or rape.

(a) The vast majority are unmarried.

(b) She engaged in activity that violates the law of our Creator.

2. It is not convenient for her to have a baby,

a) so she wants it removed, and

b) you are expected to pay for it.

B. However, once the woman is with child,

1. what grows inside her

2. is not her body.

a) She is housing a new body.

b) Consider what I learned in preparation for my transplant.

(1) If there are certain antibodies present in you at transplant,

(2) you might have a greater risk of your body rejecting your kidney.

(a) I, by the way, did not have any of those risk factors.

(b) Therefore, I have not had a rejection episode in 24 years.

(3) If a woman has had a baby,

(a) her risk for rejecting the kidney increases, because

(b) her body has built up certain antibodies

i) that God designed to attack a foreign object in the body.

ii) In other words, the baby is not her body.

(1) God designed the process

(2) so that in the case of the baby,

(a) generally her body keeps the baby.

C. Does the Bible treat the baby as merely her body, or as a new person?

1. Isaac's wife Rebekah was barren, but

a) Isaac pleaded to the Lord for her.

b) The Lord granted his plea and

(1) she conceived, but something was wrong:

**22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.**

– **Genesis 25.22**

- (2) Moses commented that she had twins, and
  - (a) the twins fought with one another in the womb.
  - (b) The point being, that Moses referred to them as children.

2. When Mary,

- a) who would give birth to Jesus,
- b) visited Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist,
  - (1) the Bible shows her and her baby's reaction to Mary's presence.
  - (2) Notice that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,
    - (a) so that she interpreted correctly
    - (b) what happened inside of her when Mary arrived:

**41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy."**

– **Luke 1.41–44**

- i) Mary must have conceived already,
- ii) so that the Lord was inside her womb.
  - (1) John expressed a human trait: Joy.
  - (2) The Bible treated him as a human.

**II. 2nd Reason: Personhood begins when a fetus is viable.**

A. What they mean by that is when the fetus can survive outside the womb.

B. Here is what the web site said:

**“A fetus is considered viable when it is able to live outside the woman’s uterus on its own. The concept of being ‘self-determining’ comes into play. When we are capable of deciding on a course of action for ourselves, we have the right to pursue it even if it’s right or wrong, and we then have the responsibility of facing its consequences.**

**“A fetus under 24 weeks old is incapable of self-determination, because it has not properly developed the necessary organs or systems to make this possible yet. This is different from saying that a fetus under 24 weeks is not alive. Life begins at conception, but personhood begins at self-determination. The embryo is considered [to have, DR] the potential to be a person if the pregnancy is carried to full-term. If we considered it a person, then our birthdates would be upon conception...Plain and simple, a fetus under 24 weeks is not independent or self-determining, as it is reliant on the woman for survival.”**

1. When does a person gain the ability to become self-determining?
  - a) That is frightening because
    - (1) that is not after the child is born.
    - (2) How many years later does that happen?
  - b) What about people who are never able to self-determine?
2. How long can a child last outside the womb, if left on its down?
  - a) The baby is absolutely dependent upon its mother or someone
  - b) for years.
3. I’m trying to be fair,
  - a) so I thought that by “self-determination,”
  - b) they meant that the baby is able to continue to grow on its own,
    - (1) disconnected from its mother,
    - (2) disconnected from the umbilical cord, and
    - (3) out of the womb, but
      - (a) they spoke of it making its own decisions and

(b) facing the consequences of bad decisions.

i) That sounds to me like they mean

ii) that it has the mental capacity to make such decisions.

4. They probably mean

a) that the child can survive outside the womb after 24 weeks, and

b) go on later to be able to make decisions, etc.

(1) Otherwise, children do not have that ability, and

(2) other people with a brain abnormality do not have that ability.

C. We do not date a person's age from conception, because

1. we do not generally know when the conception has happened.

2. Therefore, we celebrate our *birthdays*,

a) the day on which we were born, for

b) that is obvious.

D. Earlier in Genesis 25,

1. I showed you Rebekah going to the Lord

2. to find out what was going on inside of her

a) as the twins struggled with one another inside of her, and

b) that Moses labeled what grew in her as "children."

3. Now, consider what the Lord said to her:

**23 And the LORD said to her:**

**"Two nations are in your womb,  
Two peoples shall be separated from your body;  
One people shall be stronger than the other,  
And the older shall serve the younger."**

– **Genesis 25.23**

a) It sounds to me

- b) as though the Lord considered them as “persons,”
  - (1) having personhood.
  - (2) How old were they when this happened,
    - (a) I do not know, but
    - (b) they were person in the fetus stage.

### **III. 3rd Reason: Abortion supports the right to life.**

A. They mean the right of the mother’s life.

B. If a pregnancy *truly* threatens the life of the mother,

- 1. I know of no person,
- 2. who would say let the mother die.
  - a) However, that is an exception to the rule.
  - b) You do not build laws on exceptions.
    - (1) While this is rare,
    - (2) it does happen.

C. Does that mean

- 1. since someone might have to rush a person
- 2. to the hospital in an emergency,
  - a) breaking some laws along the way,
  - b) that we should not have any laws of the road?
    - (1) Should we do away with speed limits, stop signs, signal lights, etc.?
    - (2) Everyone understand that in an emergency,
      - (a) such things need to happen,
      - (b) we see this especially with emergency vehicles, but
        - i) we also see the wisdom in traffic laws.

D. For example, in Matthew 12,

- 1. the Pharisees told Jesus

2. that his disciples were doing something,
  - a) which allegedly violated the Sabbath.
  - b) However, note what Jesus said:

**3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?"**

**– Matthew 12.3–5**

3. Right after that,
  - a) he entered their synagogue and
  - b) they asked him whether it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath.
    - (1) Pay attention to how he reasoned with them:

**11 Then He said to them, "What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not lay hold of it and lift it out? 12 Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep? Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath."**

**– Matthew 12.11–12**

- (2) Technically, that was breaking the Sabbath, but
  - (a) they understood and
  - (b) Jesus understood,
    - i) that rescuing that sheep
    - ii) was an exception in an emergency situation.
- (3) Were they then to abandon all Sabbath laws?

#### **IV. 4th Reason: The right to abortion is critical to gender equality.**

A. In other words, if a pregnancy keeps her from pursuing her goals,

B. she should be able to terminate the child growing within her,

1. that way she can be like men

2. who do not have the burden or obstacle of a pregnancy:

**“Because women are the childbearing gender, this presents certain challenges. While each challenge bears its own weight, the financial challenge is probably the most consistently felt and has the most clearly visible effect. Equality as a concept means that every person has the right, without restriction, to pursue the same things whatever they may be.**

**“A woman cannot sincerely be considered to have equal standing in society if she does not at least have the choice to remove the challenges that will come with a pregnancy.”**

a) Therefore, if a child stands in her way,

b) she should be able to eliminate it!

(1) Whether you believe in evolution or creation,

(2) men and women are different.

(a) They either evolved that way or

(b) they were created that way.

C. I know

1. that there are some evolutionists who do not accept abortion, and

2. that there are some creationists who do accept abortion, but

a) generally evolutionists are for it, and

b) creationists are against it.

(1) Perhaps it all comes down to believing

(a) whether we are nothing more than flesh and bones or

(b) whether we are made in the image of God our Creator.

(2) For me, the overwhelming amount of evidence says:

**26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”**

**– Genesis 1.26–28**

- (a) Everything about abortion denies that passage.
- (b) What you believe about our origins
  - i) what affect how you think humans,
    - (1) especially the most vulnerable,
    - ii) should be treated.

**V. 5th Reason: Banning abortion risks illegal abortions.**

A. If it is not legal, they argue that she will seek illegal means:

**“Naturally, a woman or couple who face the situation of an unplanned pregnancy may not have the right circumstances to raise a child properly. Some cases even show that they are unable to financially or medically [to, DR] see the pregnancy to its full term. Regardless of the situation, of those 49% of pregnancies that are unintended, the percentage that is unwanted will be looking for ways to terminate the pregnancy.”**

B. Should we reason this way with other activities?

- 1. Some men are going to rape, should we make a law allowing them to?
- 2. Why don't we legalize everything for the same reason?
  - a) People are going to do what is wrong.
  - b) Therefore, why don't we remove the stigma of being a law-breaker.

C. Yes, females will still seek abortions elsewhere,

- 1. even as people will continue to do whatever they want, but
- 2. there will be some who deterred and

a) they will raise their children and love them.

D. When an evil exists,

1. King Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 8

2. that there is something that can be done,

a) which will prevent evil from spreading:

**11 Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.**

**– Ecclesiastes 8.11**

b) We have to stop the senseless destruction of innocent human life.

E. Some will seek to put their children up for adoption.

### **Exhortation:**

#### **I. The Issue**

A. Abortion and the whole homosexuality debate,

B. which are two of the hottest issues in America today,

1. have something in common.

2. Something that our culture obsesses over in everything.

a) It sells cars.

b) It sells fast food.

c) It sells music.

d) The world cannot have a conversation

(1) without bringing up its favorite topic.

(2) You know what it is.

(a) For the sake of your children,

(b) I will not name it here, but

i) I have no doubt that all adults

ii) know what subject I mean.

C. However, one large obstacle to unlimited activity in this area

1. is the conception of a baby.
2. The possibility of a pregnancy suddenly shows
  - a) that we cannot live as we so desire
  - b) without consequence.

**II. That is true our lives overall.**

A. We are the creation of the God of heaven.

B. He expects us to function according to the purpose for he created us.