

my secret LIFE



In the hidden world of life before birth, the most amazing development humankind has ever imagined takes place. It used to be that life before birth was a secret. It is certainly not secret any more! Thanks to new technology that enables us to peek into the womb as never before, we are now able to witness the miracle of life in incredible detail.

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you . . . —Jeremiah 1:5

Fertilization: A new human being begins the first day of his life when his father's sperm and his mother's egg combine. At that moment a new human person, who carries with him as much information as 50 sets of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, is formed. This genetic information DNA—will determine all of this little person's physical characteristics and much of his intelligence and personality.

Day 2: Our little friend is now three cells big. His cells will continue to divide as he starts down his mother's Fallopian tube towards her uterus (womb), where he will get the food and shelter he needs to grow and develop.

Day 6-7: Implantation into his mother's uterus begins, and all the while, he continues to grow. As his cells multiply they differentiate to perform specific functions—circulatory, muscular, neural and skeletal.

Day 14: Implantation is completed around this time and his mother misses her first menstrual period.

Day 20: His heart, brain, spinal column and nervous system are almost complete and his eyes begin to form.

Day 22: His heart begins to beat.

Day 28: This little boy is now approximately 1/4 inch long—10,000 times larger than he was only three weeks ago. The blood flowing in his veins is completely separate from his mother's.

Week 4: His muscles are developing, and arm and leg buds are visible. His large, distinct head is clearly identifiable, along with the major outlines of brain and eye vesicles, the beginnings of his central nervous system, notochord, mouth and pharynx, body cavity, and the basis of his skeleton.

Week 5: Our small friend's face is taking shape; his forehead, eyes, nostrils and mouth are evident; external ears are beginning; hand and foot plates appear in his limb buds.

Week 6: The brainwaves of this little boy can be recorded. His different muscles begin working together.

Week 8: His fingers and toes are fairly well defined, and fingerprints, a unique and defining feature of every human being, are permanently engraved on his skin. All of his organs are present, complete, and functioning (except his lungs). Fifty percent of the abortions performed in America take place between now and Week 9.

Weeks 9-10: All areas of his body are sensitive to touch. He sucks his thumbs, swallows, squints, frowns and puckers his brow. If his palm is stroked, he will make a tight fist.

Weeks: 11-12: He now has fingernails, toenails and working taste buds. He can also make all facial expressions, including a smile.

Week 13: Although this baby was already a boy at fertilization, his sex is now identifiable.

Month 4: This little baby's heart is pumping six gallons of blood every day, and his mom can now feel him jumping around and turning somersaults, exercising the muscles and lungs he will need to live outside his mother's womb. Rapid eye movement (REM) can be recorded, indicating that he is dreaming.

Months 5-6: He now weighs about one pound and is a foot long. If he were born now he would have a 50% chance of surviving with the help of dedicated doctors and nurses.

Months 7-8: He can open and close his eyes and recognizes his mom's voice. His weight continues to increase and "baby fat" fills out and smoothes his skin. If he were born now his chance of surviving increases to 90%.

Month 9: When he is ready to be born he will release hormones to trigger labor. He may weigh between 7 and 9 pounds, and can be between 18 and 21 inches long.

I have set
before you
life and death
... choose life.

—Deuteronomy 30:19

Methods of Abortion

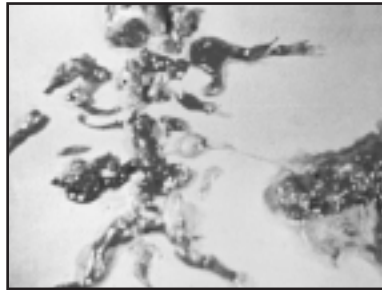
“Abortion” has become just a word. In every abortion, a baby dies. Every abortion is evil. But abortion is a gruesome, horrifying “procedure.” Here are just some of the ways an innocent preborn child’s life can be ended.

First Trimester

Abortifacients: Abortion-causing chemicals and devices can act to kill preborn children in the earliest days of life. While these methods may act to inhibit ovulation and prevent conception, they also act to alter the lining of the womb so the newly conceived child cannot implant in the uterine wall. If the child cannot implant in the lining of the womb to receive nourishment, he dies. Birth control pills (including “morning-after” pills), OrthoEvra, Depo-Provera and IUDs act prior to implantation. Other methods of chemical abortion, including RU-486, methotrexate and misoprostol, act to kill the child after implantation.

Suction: A powerful pump is hooked to a hose, which has a serrated suction tip attached to its end. After dilation of the cervix (the mouth of the womb), the suction tip is inserted to the top of the womb and the pump is started. The baby is ripped apart and sucked through the narrow hose into a receptacle.

D & C: Used during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. After dilation of the cervix, a ring forceps is inserted into the womb and the baby extracted in pieces. Once this has been accomplished, a large curette is used to scrape the afterbirth (placenta) from the wall of the womb and to confirm that the womb is empty.



Second Trimester

D & E: Used during the second trimester (4-6 months) of pregnancy. This method has largely replaced saline and chemical abortions, which too frequently resulted in live births, a complication from the abortionist’s perspective. The baby is cut to pieces and the pieces are withdrawn with instruments or suction. This is followed by suction and curettage to insure that the womb is empty.

Third Trimester

D & X: Also used for advanced pregnancies. Laminaria are used to soften and partially dilate the cervix; further mechanical dilation allows passage of a ring forceps. A foot or lower leg is located and pulled into the vagina. The baby is extracted in breech fashion until the head is just inside the cervix. With the baby face down, scissors are plunged into the baby’s head at the nape of the neck and spread open to enlarge the wound. A suction tip is inserted and the baby’s brain removed. The skull collapses and the baby is delivered.

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Lethal Injection: This late-term abortion method involves injecting potassium chloride into the heart of a baby inside the womb to cause cardiac arrest. Prostaglandins are administered to induce labor and the mother delivers a dead baby.

Complications of Abortion

If you have been told that abortion is a “safe and legal” procedure, please keep reading. Many problems can come up either during or after a “legal” abortion, problems that you might not have been told about. You deserve to know what can happen to you if you get an abortion. Here are just some of the physical, emotional and psychological consequences:

Death rates for women who have had an abortion are much higher than previously thought. A 2002 study debunks the claim that abortion is “safer than childbirth.”

Women who have an abortion are involved in risk-taking behavior at higher levels than women who have not had an abortion. Women who had an abortion in the year prior to their deaths were:

- 14 times more likely to die from homicide

- 7 times more likely to die of suicide
- 4 times more likely to die from accident-related injuries

Women who abort a first pregnancy are at greater risk of long-term clinical depression compared to women who carried a first pregnancy—even an unintended one—to term.

Having an abortion prior to carrying a pregnancy to term increases the risk of premature delivery and other problems associated with giving birth.

When they do carry a pregnancy to term, women who abort are:

- twice as likely to use alcohol
- ten times more likely to use marijuana

There is strong evidence that having an abortion can increase the risk of breast cancer, especially if the woman’s first pregnancy ends in abortion.

Additional details are available at www.AfterAbortion.org

A Matter of Life & Death

Every night, Gabriel John, I whisper, “I love you,” in your little ear and tell you how glad I am that you are here with us. I do this because back in the shadows of your very beginning, I contemplated denying you your very existence.

As a single parent with three young boys already, accepting the idea of a pregnancy and fourth child was somewhere above overwhelming.

Looking back now at that February filled with decisions—the fact that I had an appointment at an abortion clinic to stop your little beating heart makes me shudder. But a smile grows as I think of how one person intervened on your behalf that sunny morning. She stretched out her hand, giving me a card with her name and phone number and asking me to please think about it all and to call her anytime.

Someone really wanted you to live. Someone taught me how valuable you were even then—even so tiny. Thank you, God, for having her there for me that day. And for you, too, Gabriel.

—Vickie S. Wright

I found out the day before I graduated that I was pregnant. When I went to the doctor to find out the results of my pregnancy test, he said, “It’s positive; do you want to have an abortion?” They did not offer me any kind of alternatives. They didn’t offer to pull me out of my physically abusive home. They just offered me abortion.

I needed a lot of help and I did not get it and there wasn’t anybody to care about me as a person. All that they cared about was fixing the situation and making sure everybody got their money.

I put up a great big huge wall, became very tough, very cold and very pro-abortion. So much so that when I was pregnant again, I literally bounced into that abortion clinic, bounced right back out, it didn’t faze me in the least. I didn’t care about me, so why would I care about a baby?

Every woman that I’ve talked to that has gone into an abortion clinic is not told what happens—physically, psychologically—or what happens in fetal development or what the abortion does to the baby. And I think one of the cruelest things to find out in life is what happens afterwards, after you’ve already had the abortion. And you have to sit there and deal with what you’ve paid someone to do to this innocent little person.

—Debbie Sotirkys

Pro-life answers to pro-abortion questions

Shouldn’t abortion be legal for victims of rape?

Rape is a violent crime perpetrated on an innocent victim—the woman. Abortion is also a violent crime perpetrated on an innocent victim—the preborn baby. The violence of rape cannot be erased by the violence of abortion. The victim needs our love, compassion, and understanding. The child is a human being with an inalienable right to life. The innocent child must not be executed for the crime of the father.

What about abortion in the case of incest?

Abortion does not aid in the healing process. Instead, abortion can leave physical, emotional, and psychological scars, which will only add to the pain and agony of the incest victim. The child conceived in incest is an innocent third party. Each human being—from the moment of fertilization—is a unique, human person with a right to live. The circumstances surrounding that little one’s entry into the world are irrelevant.

Do pro-lifers believe that the life of the preborn baby is more important than the life of the mother?

When the wellbeing of the mother is a concern, all efforts should be made to save both the child and the mother. Intentionally destroying the life of a developing child—for any reason—is unjust

and morally wrong. If medical efforts—such as treating an ectopic pregnancy or cancerous uterus—indirectly end the life of the child, it is not an abortion, since the intent was not to destroy the child.

What if the child has a disability? Isn’t abortion a humane option?

Preborn babies with disabilities are people created in the image of God and deserve the right to life. We do not advocate killing preschool-aged children with spina bifida or Down’s syndrome, and we shouldn’t advocate killing them in the womb either. Prenatal diagnostic tests are often wrong. The baby may turn out to be totally healthy. People living with disabilities need to be supported and cared for, not regarded as burdens.

What about the effect “unwanted” children have on our society?

Since abortion was legalized in 1973 there have been dramatic increases in child abuse, violent crime, juvenile offenders and the welfare rolls. By reducing abortion to a personal “choice” our society has opened the gate to the widespread disintegration of respect for all human beings. Aborting millions of children has increased, not relieved, society’s problems. Which of these “unwanted” children held the solutions to our problems?



This information is also available as a full-color, illustrated pamphlet. Shop online at www.ProLifeGear.com or call toll-free 866-LET-LIVE.

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