

5. **God's View**

God has a special place in His heart for babies, born and unborn. In Jeremiah 1:5 He tells us that He is involved in our development in the womb when Jeremiah writes, **"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."** In Psalms 139 it says, *"For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."* We are pro-life because God makes it clear that He loves us and is involved in our lives before and after we are born.

6. **The Growing Baby**

A baby in the womb is growing from the moment he or she is conceived. At 18-20 days after conception the foundations of the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are laid⁹ and just **21 days after conception the heart of the baby begins to beat.**¹⁰ By 44 days after conception all internal organs are present.¹¹ The majority of abortions are done on babies 8 weeks or older (56 days after conception).¹² We are pro-life because a baby is a unique human being from the moment of conception.

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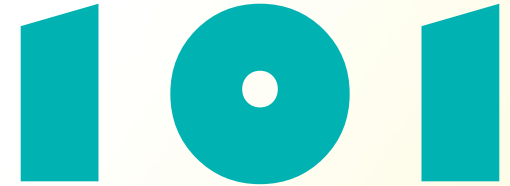
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If you have questions about the pro-life movement and how you can help please contact:

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PRO-LIFE



SOME SIMPLE TRUTHS IN DEFENSE OF THE PRO-LIFE POSITION



When someone challenges your simple statement, "I'm Pro-Life," Can you defend your position? Here are some facts that will help:

We are pro-life because:

1. **The Lost Babies**

In this country there are 1.2 million babies killed by abortion every year.¹ Abortion is responsible for the death of 1 in 4 babies in the United States.² This means that in a typical classroom of 24 students, 8 students are missing - lost to abortion. We are pro-life because we believe in the sanctity of human life, including the lives of unborn babies.

2. **The Unjust Justifications**

Rape and incest are almost always given as reasons that abortion should be legal. **The truth is, abortions of babies conceived because of rape and incest are rare, representing only about one percent of all abortions.³** In reality, the vast majority of abortions are done for reasons of convenience. When asked to give the reasons they had abortions, 74% of women said that a baby would change their life too much. Other reasons listed were that babies were too expensive (73%), that they didn't want to have to raise the baby alone (48%), and that they did not want another child (32%).⁴ We are pro-life because the reasons for abortion do not justify killing a baby.

3. **The Wanted Babies**

Many people will argue that every baby should be loved and wanted. They are basically saying, "If a baby won't be loved, it should be killed." **The sad fact is that in the United States there are an average of 36 couples waiting for every child that is adopted.⁵** Every year there are approximately 2 million couples in the United States waiting to adopt. If EVERY baby that was to be aborted was born and adopted out to the waiting couples there would STILL be 800,000 couples waiting to adopt. Babies may be unwanted by their mother but they are wanted by others. While this is sad, there are literally millions of loving parents ready to help. We are pro-life because EVERY baby is a wanted baby.

4. **The Hurt Women**

Abortion doesn't just kill babies, it also does harm to women. **Women can be hurt physically and emotionally from abortion.** The harm caused by abortion is not mentioned very frequently but it can be extremely serious.

The physical risks of abortion depend on the procedure used. The most common methods carry the risks of cramping, abdominal pain, infection (which can lead to serious illness and even the mother's death), perforation of the uterus, cervical incompetence (a condition in which the cervix opens too early, increasing the risk of a miscarriage in future pregnancies) and injury to the cervix.^{6,7}

The emotional trauma can be just as bad or even worse. The majority of women who have abortions feel guilt (93%), depression (88%), anger (81%), sorrow (92%), grief (85%), bitterness (75%), despair (74%) and shame (91%). Women who have abortions also report flashbacks to the abortion (63%), hysterical outbreaks (51%), uncontrollable weeping (70%), suicidal feelings (56%), a general sense of emptiness (83%), quicker tempers (59%), and becoming more violent when angered. (48%).⁸