

Right to Life vs. Abortion



Abortion is subject matter that has introduced many questions and divided the nation of the United States and the world. Abortion is defined as the intentional termination of a human pregnancy. A societal split has occurred because of morality issues and the contradicting views of religion and American law. I believe that abortion is immoral and should not be legal in the United States.

The court case that legalized abortion in the United States was the case of *Roe v. Wade*. The *Roe v. Wade* case occurred in the year 1973. The defendant, Jane Roe, issued a court case against her district's attorney, Henry Wade. Roe believed the laws that made abortion illegal, apart from when the mother's life was in danger, infringed on her right to privacy about her medical situations during her pregnancy. Namely, she wanted the choice to terminate her pregnancy without disclosing her medical situations or health issues to anyone. Another subject that was discussed in this case was the Fourteenth Amendment in the Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment states that all people born in the United States are American citizens and have equal protection under the law. Therefore, there is no legal protection for unborn children, which causes the conflict of if and when a fetus is considered a citizen. The Supreme Court decided that unborn babies are not officially citizens. Therefore, Jane Roe won the court case and abortion was legalized. To this day, abortion has been performed on over 59,902,500 babies in the United States. Though numbers per year are steadily decreasing in the recent decade, the loss of life in the few years since *Roe v. Wade* is truly monumental and heartbreaking.

The country's view on abortion stems from citizenship, but the Catholic Church focuses on what the definition of a human being truly is. The Catechism of the Catholic Church declares that the life of a person is considered to begin at conception and end at natural death. According to an article by Network Advocates, it states, "...all people are made in the image of God and so

possess an equal and inalienable worth.” This shows that both the mother and child have equal worth and ultimately have the same rights. Therefore, the Catholic Church believes that from the moment of conception, a baby is a human person. Also, the Catholic Church states that abortion is a violation of the fifth commandment. The fifth commandment is, “Thou shalt not kill.” Abortion is the murder of a human being, therefore breaks this commandment. Ultimately, the Catholic Church sees that abortion is immoral because the baby possesses the rights all human beings possess.

These conflicting beliefs caused the country of the United States to split into two protesting groups, pro-life and pro-choice. People who define themselves as pro-choice, believe that because the baby is being grown in the woman’s body and ultimately affecting her life, she has the right to terminate the pregnancy. Another thought from the article “They’re Not Pro Life, They’re Anti-Women” states, “But these same people have absolutely no interest in the life of the mother. They don't care if her life is in danger because of the birth or because someone will kill her if they discover she's pregnant.” This shows that many view pro-life as anti-woman and not thinking of what the woman’s needs are. In contrast, the pro-life group believes that not only is the body of the woman being affected but the life of the unborn child as well. Pro-life focuses on how both mother and child have the same rights and stress that equality between both parties. Like the Catholic Church, pro-life members believe that children are a human being from conception to natural death. Another argument is that unborn children are developing constantly from the embryonic stage and have brain activity. The MCCL foundation supports this concept by stating, “If unborn children aren't persons because they lack higher mental functions, for example, then human infants, people in temporary comas, and patients with advanced dementia aren’t persons either.” This shows that all people have equal rights and these rights do not depend

on mental capacity or ability to make decisions. The two different groups and viewpoints cause many disputes and disagreements in today's society.

Personally, I believe that abortion is immoral and should not be legal in the United States today. This issue is important to me because many babies are being murdered. These children could have grown up and changed the world, but they were never given the opportunity to make their mark on the world. This loss of life and opportunity deeply saddens me. I have performed research and discovered that abortion is often done for the benefit of the mother and does not think about the equality of the baby. I have had the amazing opportunity to learn more about abortion by meeting and interviewing the creator of the Charis Pregnancy Center. This organization supports women of all ages in unexpected or unwanted pregnancies who have worries about financial issues, familial response, and more. Charis also helps these women understand that abortion is not the answer and there are many different routes that will be in the best interest of her, and her unborn child. In the future, I plan to continue to advocate for the end to the legalization of abortion and spread the word of the emotional and physical hardships of facing abortion.

Ultimately, abortion has caused a tremendous amount of conflict in the United States. Abortion and its legalization has ripped the country apart because of mixed beliefs. The country has chosen to legalize abortion, but the Catholic Church states clearly that abortion is immoral and is not right. I agree with the viewpoint of the Catholic Church that abortion is not moral and is not giving equal rights to both the mother and child. Abortion has plagued this country for many years and the youth of today's society are responsible for helping to change the legalization of abortion in the future world.

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