

In Defense of Choices

Perhaps the most prevalent misconception regarding the pro-life movement is that it opposes granting women choices. In actuality, advocates for protecting life in its most vulnerable form support many choices, including sexual responsibility, adoption, and motherhood. There is just one choice that the pro-life cause unequivocally rejects: the abortion of a life.

In this sexually liberated era, proposing abstinence is taboo at best, offensive at worst. That being said, it remains as the only foolproof way to prevent unwanted pregnancy, and we should not be so quick to deem it too “old-fashioned” and discount it. I am not asserting that everyone ought to remain celibate or that abstinence-only sexual education should be enforced; sexual responsibility encompasses much more than abstinence. Birth control, with the exception of that which thickens the uterine lining in order to reject a zygote, is a perfectly humane method of monitoring one’s own reproductive capabilities. Condoms are readily available on campuses nationwide, and birth control that merely hinders ovulation is accessible in many forms, including pills, shots, and implants. These are viable, moral options that can be employed as vehicles of reproductive autonomy. We must continue to foster a culture of sexual responsibility that also sanctifies life.

Contraception, though predominantly effective, is undoubtedly fallible. When an unplanned pregnancy does occur, and the mother decides that she is not at a stage in her life where she is ready to raise her child, adoption works as a favorable alternative to abortion. The slogan touted by Planned Parenthood, an organization that has terminated over seven million pregnancies since the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, reads “Every Child a Wanted Child.” This phrase intends to justify abortion by insinuating that it will spare unborn children a life of ostracism. Upwards of one million abortions are performed in the United States each year, and that number is on the rise. Meanwhile, Adoption Network Law Center estimates

that the number of American couples waiting to adopt a child at any given moment ranges between one and two million. As evidenced by the abortion and adoption statistics, every child would be, in fact, a wanted child if given the chance. The argument that abortion works in favor of the child being aborted is simply nonsensical. Adoption is *always* an option, and, especially when chosen over abortion, it is positive for all parties involved.

Those who elect to raise their children understand that motherhood is not light work. But it is arguably the most admirable, rewarding, and important endeavor that a woman takes on in her lifetime. It is unsurprising that, contrary to popular belief, women are the most outspoken advocates for pro-life legislation. Abortion abandons the most fundamental, instinctual feminine tendencies of nurturance and protection. This explains reports of women who have had abortions regretting it increasingly as time passes. Assured, it is a painful and difficult decision to make. A major culprit of the climbing abortion rates is the lack of solid support systems. We must strive to create an environment in which women, despite perceived inadequate preparation, are comfortable enough to become mothers. A multitude of nonprofit organizations exist with the sole mission of supporting women throughout pregnancy and beyond. These groups are not judgmental of unplanned pregnancy, and they truly want nothing more than to aid and empower mothers. As long as we continue to support and publicize these systems in place that work for the betterment of women and children alike, motherhood will continue to become less daunting.

The most dangerous component of the case for pro-choice policy is its inconsistency. The intricacies of the development of human life are undeniable and acknowledged universally. If we betray the truth that life begins at conception, it is impossible to consistently discern what constitutes the beginning of a life. If it is the formation of a heartbeat, as some suggest, that would imply that the millisecond before the baby's heart starts beating is the defining moment

between that child's intrinsic human value and its disposability. Maybe abortion only becomes immoral at the end of the first trimester, as maintained by others. If that is the case, how does one measure the exact moment that a pregnancy crosses into the second trimester? It is imperative that we be able to measure this if we are all in concurrence that the second trimester life form is worthy of protection. The fact of the matter is that we cannot make such an observation with flawless precision. The only consistent indicator of existing life is conception.

Unborn children have no voice. Subsequently, they are the most vulnerable members of society, and it is everyone's responsibility to speak up and be the voice of reason and compassion. Abortion is indicative of a disconcerting moral decline, and other options must be revered. Sexual responsibility, adoption, and motherhood are practices to be celebrated. I am a relentless defender of choices, and I am unapologetically pro-life.