

# When Does Human Life Begin? Equipping You to Equip Others

When talking to the undecided about abortion, pro-lifers must prove the unborn are human beings. Since the scientific evidence for life beginning at fertilization is clear, that is the airtight case that cannot be refuted by abortion supporters. Because people's moral intuition already dictates that it is wrong to intentionally kill innocent human beings (e.g., Jews during the Holocaust), pro-lifers simply need to prove the unborn are human beings like the born.

To understand how fundamental this point is, think about all the circumstances often used to justify abortion: rape, poverty, "unwantedness," abuse, etc. And with each situation ask yourself: would we ever kill born people for those reasons?

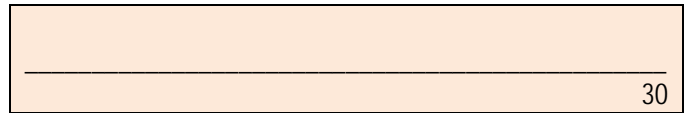
For example, imagine a woman is raped a day after having sex with her husband. A few weeks later she learns she is pregnant but doesn't know who the father of the child is. After the baby is born, a paternity test is conducted. If the baby's father is revealed to be the rapist, may the baby be killed then? **Or, may we kill poor people in Africa to eliminate the existence of poverty?** May we kill born children who are unwanted and abused?

In each situation the answer is always no. **If we *won't* kill born human beings for the very same reasons that we *would* kill unborn human beings, that means the unborn aren't considered human as are the born.** So that's the issue: are they?

Some pro-lifers make the mistake of assuming that the public already knows that the unborn are human beings. But the public's actions show otherwise. Large numbers of born children aren't being killed for the same reasons large numbers of unborn children are. People may claim they believe the unborn are human, but they don't really believe it, as the aforementioned situations reveal.

To use another example, when pro-lifers parallel abortion to the Holocaust, abortion supporters routinely object to the comparison, stating, "They're not comparable!" When prompted as to why, they typically respond, "Because they're not the same thing! You can't compare mass destruction of human life with a woman's right to choose." **They do not consider abortion to be "mass destruction of human life," so that's what pro-lifers need to prove, and here's how:**

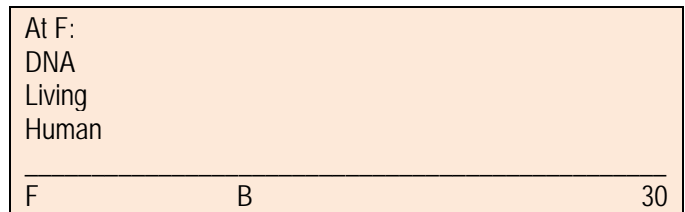
When you're talking to someone who supports abortion, grab a scrap piece of paper (or a napkin if you're at a coffee shop!) and draw a line with their age (30, for the sake of the following example) at the end, like this:



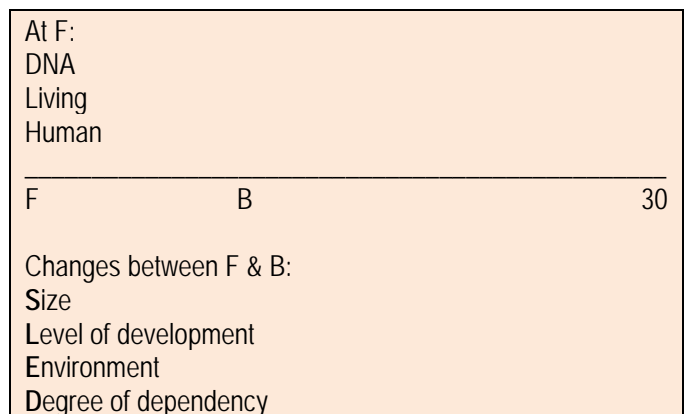
Then explain to them that we know 30 years ago they were born, and we know 9 months prior to that fertilization occurred. So, add the points of fertilization (F) and birth (B):



Now explain what science has been able to establish about the process of fertilization, namely that a being's **DNA is established** (e.g., whether one is male or female); that **the being is living** (because living things come from other living things); and that **the being is of its parents' species** (because *living things reproduce after their own kind*: dogs come from dogs, cats from cats, and humans from humans). As you explain this, add to your drawing, adding the last item only after confirming that your friend has human parents (which lets you see if your friend is keeping up and also provides a bit of comic relief ☺):



Then explain, "Now, between fertilization and birth, there are obviously some changes which occur. All changes can be summarized into one of four categories, which form the acronym SLED."<sup>1</sup> Write those changes out like this:



Graph the changes while explaining that over the 9-month period, **size increases, one's physical and mental development increases, one's environment changes**

