

ETHICS & BIO-ETHICS FACT SHEET

KEY FACTS:

Abortion**

- **The Unborn**
 - Day 30—heart begins to beat
 - Day 40—displays measurable brainwaves
 - Day 45—identifiable arms and legs
 - Day 70—fingers and genitals appear and the child's face is recognizably human
 - The majority of abortions are preformed between the seventh and tenth weeks
- Approximately 126,000 abortions are performed worldwide each day
- Approximately 46 million abortions are performed worldwide each year
- The lifetime average worldwide is about 1 abortion per woman

Euthanasia

- Oregon, the Netherlands, and Belgium are the only jurisdictions in the world where laws specifically permit euthanasia

Stem Cells

- **Embryonic stem cell research**
 - kills the embryo when extracted
 - provides no scientific achievement
- **Non-embryonic stem cell research**
 - does not kill a human being
 - much scientific advancement

KEY VERSES:

Genesis 1:26–31; 9:6; 19:1–29	Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; 24:11–12	1 Corinthians 6:9–20 Matthew 7:13
Exodus 20:13; 21:22–23	Isaiah 5:20–23	Romans 1:18–32; 12:9
Leviticus 18:22; 20:13	Amos 5:15	1 Timothy 1:10
Deuteronomy 32:39	Jeremiah 1:5	Hebrews 5:14
Psalms 12:8; 139:13–16	Mark 1:41	James 1:27; 2:14–17
Job 42:1–6	Romans 1:25–32	

KEY QUOTES:

Ethics (general)

"The fundamental question of ethics is, who makes the rules? God or men? The theistic answer is that God makes them. The humanist answer is that men make them. This distinction between theism and humanism is the fundamental division in moral theory."¹

"No inherent moral or ethical laws exist, nor are there absolute guiding principles for human society. The universe cares nothing for us and we have no ultimate meaning in life."²

"[W]e can rationally discuss and argue with each other about right and wrong without

** For more statistics see The Alan Guttmacher Institute, www.agi-usa.org

¹ Max Hocutt, "Toward an Ethic of Mutual Accommodation," in *Humanist Ethics*, ed. Morris B. Storer (Buffalo: Prometheus, 1980), p. 137.

² William Provine, "Scientists, Face It! Science and Religion are Incompatible," *The Scientist*, 5 September 1988, 10.

resorting to the claim that ethical judgments are merely subjective or relative and that all such judgments have equal validity. For to claim the latter logically leads one to the bizarre judgment that Mother Teresa is no more and no less virtuous than Adolf Hitler."³

"If there is no absolute beyond man's ideas, then there is no final appeal to judge between individuals and groups whose moral judgments conflict. We are merely left with conflicting opinions."⁴

Bio-ethics (general)

"Cloning and the biotech agenda are even worse news for human dignity than abortion. Not only are we taking upon ourselves the godlike prerogative of ending human life as we choose, but we also are attempting to appropriate the prerogative of making human life as we choose."⁵

Abortion

"Many people are very, very concerned with children in India, with the children of Africa where quite a few die of hunger, and so on. Many people are also concerned about all the violence in this great country of the United States. These concerns are very good. But often these same people are not concerned with the millions who are being killed by the deliberate decision of their own mothers. And this is what is the greatest destroyer of peace today—abortion, which brings people to such blindness."⁶

"'The nurses have to look at the ultrasound picture to gauge how far along the baby is for an abortion, because the larger the pregnancy, the more you get paid. It was very important for us to do that. But the turnover definitely got greater when we started using ultrasound. We lost two nurses – they couldn't take looking at it. Some of the other staff left also.' What about the women having the abortions? Do they see the ultrasound? 'They are never allowed to look at the ultrasound because we knew that if they so much as heard the heartbeat, they wouldn't want to have the abortion.'"⁷

"The fact that restricting access to abortion has tragic side effects does not, in itself, show that the restrictions are unjustified, since murder is wrong regardless of the consequences of prohibiting it; and the appeal to the right to control one's body, which is generally construed as a property right, is at best a rather feeble argument for the permissibility of abortion. Mere ownership does not give me the right to kill innocent people whom I find on my property, and indeed I am apt to be held responsible if such people injure themselves while on my property. It is equally unclear that I have any moral right to expel an innocent person from my property when I know that doing so will result in his death."⁸

"A nurse who had worked in an abortion clinic for less than a year said her most troubling moments came not in the procedure room but afterwards. Many times, she said, women who had just had abortions would lie in the recovery room and cry, 'I've just killed my baby. I've just killed my baby.'

I don't know what to say to these women,' the nurse told the group. 'Part of me thinks 'Maybe they're right.'"⁹

³ Francis Beckwith, "Philosophical Problems with Moral Relativism," *Christian Research Journal*, Fall 1993, 39.

⁴ Francis Schaeffer, *How Should We Then Live?* (Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1976), p. 145.

⁵ Charles Colson, *Breakpoint* Radio Broadcast, (Jan. 2, 2003).

⁶ Mother Teresa, quoted in Cal Thomas, "Meek Mother Teresa delivers a verbal knockout punch," *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*, 9 February 1994, B7.

⁷ Dr. Joseph Randall, who performed over 32,000 abortions, quoted in David Kupelian and Mark Masters, "Pro-Choice 1991: skeletons in the closet," *New Dimensions*, September/October 1991, 43.

⁸ Prochoice philosopher Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status on Abortion," in *The Problem of Abortion*, 2nd ed., ed. Joel Feinberg (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1984), p. 103, quoted in Randy Alcorn, *Pro Life Answers to Pro Choice Arguments*, (Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1992), p. 86.

⁹ Diane Gianelli, "Abortion providers share inner conflicts," *American Medical News*, 12 July 1993, 36.

Euthanasia

"It's sad to say, but euthanasia will someday be legalized. There's already a thrust for it legislatively. We shouldn't allow for exceptions because hard cases make bad law. But some doctors are already deciding when the quality of life is over. A lot of it goes on without being prosecuted."¹⁰

Homosexuality

"It never dawned on these people that my pain was a very real cry to be whole, to be well. A 15-year old crying out for love, and getting instead an empty excuse for healing, empty words that said, 'there are no absolutes,' 'lose your inhibition,' 'experiment with your sexuality.' Think about it...at fifteen, confused and alone, what effect would those words have?...You see, I was one of those children. I was a homosexual. And I am one of the lucky ones...I got out alive."¹¹

"But this strategy [of viewing the homosexual struggle as a civil rights issue] is based on two assumptions: that sexuality is equivalent to race in terms of discrimination, and that the full equality of homosexuals can be accomplished by designating gay people as victims. Both are extremely dubious.

Unlike blacks three decades ago, gay men and lesbians suffer no discernible communal economic deprivation and already operate at the highest levels of society: in boardrooms, governments, the media, the military, the law and industry."¹² [A Pro-homosexual publication]

"As more and more homosexuals come out of hiding, the reality of gay economic and political and education achievement becomes more evident. And as that happens, gay people who insist they are oppressed will increasingly, and not always unfairly, come off as yuppie whiners, 'victims' with \$50,000 incomes and vacations in Europe. They may feel they are oppressed, but they will have a harder and harder time convincing the public."¹³ [A Pro-homosexual publication]

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¹⁰ "A matter of life and death," Assemblies of God, USA, at: <http://pentecostalevangel.ag.org/>

¹¹ Jeff, "Open Letter from a Survivor," *CFV Report*, Volume 9, October 1993, 2.

¹² Andrew Sullivan, "The Politics of Homosexuality," *The New Republic*, May 10, 1993, 34.

¹³ Jonathan Rauch, "Beyond Oppression," *The New Republic*, May 10, 1993, 23.

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