

## Lecture 21 – Respect for Human Life at the Beginning (Part I)

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV)

### Key Terms

Conception, human life, timeline, legality

### Objectives

- \*Articulate and defend a Biblical perspective on human life.
- \*Apply the principles of the sanctity of life to the issue of abortion.
- \*Articulate the significant biological facts of life.

### Respect for Human Life at the Beginning (Part I)

#### I. Biological Facts of Life (*see handout*)

- A. Conception – 26-30 hrs.
- B. Implantation – 6-10 days
- C. Individuation – 14th day
- D. Birth – 9 months

#### II. Biblical perspective

- A. PCA Report (*PCA Position Papers on Ethical Issues*)
- B. Genesis 5:1-3
- C. Isaiah 7:14
- D. Psalm 139:13-16
- E. Exodus 21:22-23

#### III. Morality of Abortion

Whether the life of the fetus is to be preserved just as the life of any born human being, or whether, as a developing human being, the life of the fetus may be taken away in circumstances that would not otherwise justify the willful taking of human life.

- A. Fetus’ life
- B. Burden of proof
- C. Potential person argument
  1. Peter Singer and infanticide
- D. Catholic distinction in abortion

#### IV. Legality of Abortion

- A. See “*Legalization of Abortion in the USA*” handout.
- B. France

#### V. Infanticide (*this topic is only mentioned, but not discussed. See handout on partial-birth abortion*)