

The Logic of the Pro-Life Position

Arthur M. Kunath M.D.

Principles in 4 Areas

1. Morality

2. Biology

3. Emotional (Affective Domain)

4. Legal

The Just Society

- Must have ethical system based on 1st principles
- Principles must be rooted in or be derived from human nature

Principles

- 1. Fundamental
- 2. Unalterable
- 3. Self-evident

Principles

Must be applied using logic or they become

1. Incoherent

2. Contradictory

3. Illogical

Principles of Western Civilization

1. Human Life Is Sacred
2. It Is Never Licit to Make An Attack upon Innocent Human Life
3. It Is Never Justifiable to Do Evil, Even in an Attempt to Accomplish Good
4. Human Life Begins at Fertilization When a Female Ovum is Fertilized by a Male Sperm

Examination of Principles

1. If human life is not sacred, special, dignified

-Violence

-Slavery

-Exploitation

-Murder

All of above would be permitted

- Hippocrates recognized this
- Declaration of Independence life, liberty, pursuit of happiness self-evident truths
- Rights endowed by Our Creator not the state, not the judge

Since life is sacred it follows that

- 1.No direct attack on innocent human life is permitted
2. Can use violence only when attacked or threatened with an attack

Ethical Principle

We cannot do evil even if a good might result

Without this principle(rule) no ethical system
can survive

Any evil could be justified

Science Speaks

1. Human life begins at fertilization
 - this is fundamental scientific reality
 - at fertilization cells divide and grow it is alive
 - it is human not a carrot or a dog
 - every human life begins at fertilization
 - it is unique

Caveat

1. Human life begins at fertilization not implantation
2. In 1965 ACOG stated conception is implantation of fertilized ovum
3. Definition changed to obscure abortifacient properties of IUD and BCP

Applied Logic

If we prevent implantation by chemical or physical irritation we cause the death of a human being

This is an abortion

This is straight logic

True Science

1. If scientists lie and are corrupt then they cause a complete breakdown of the scientific enterprise
2. Science must be rooted in truth, in reality
3. Common sense examples
 - test tube baby
 - human clone

The Logic

1. Science states life begins at fertilization
2. That life is human life
3. Human life is sacred and since it is human it has rights
4. Stages of human life -fertilized cell-embryo-fetus-baby-infant-child-adolescent-adult-senior
5. Clear, logical, true

Logical Conclusions

1. Stem cell research on human embryos
2. Frozen human embryos
3. Selective destruction of implanted embryos in fertility clinics
4. Prenatal testing can be search and destroy
5. Use of cells from aborted fetuses to make cell lines

Logical Conclusions

1. By using our principles we can easily decide what is a violation and should be condemned
2. We must continuously reiterate these principles so that others can achieve clarity on these issues

Distinctions

1. Ectopic Pregnancy and the double effect
2. Spontaneous miscarriage

Emotional Realities

1. Consider two young women

One with 1st pregnancy a wanted child
spontaneous miscarriage sense of loss, grief,
sadness

One with 1st pregnancy unwanted child
induced abortion no grief, no sadness, no
sense of loss

Emotional Realities

Can these two scenarios both represent
woman's true nature?

Very unlikely!

Emotional Realities

1. If people do not affirm our principles why is it such a hard decision?
2. Why do people get so upset when we discuss these issues?
3. Why is there any controversy concerning Ultrasound of baby?

Historical Digression

Punic Wars Rome vs Carthage

Rome-infanticide

Carthage-human sacrifice to Moloch for
personal benefit

What is abortion but human sacrifice

Emotional Reasons

1. Need to finish school
2. No Money
3. My health
4. Shame
5. Can't be bothered
6. It's a girl

We sacrifice child for our own personal benefit.
Think of nation that kills its offspring what is its future?

The Law

1. It's a mess, it contradicts itself
2. Supreme Court Mother can abort for any reason Father has no say
3. Court also recognizes
Injured fetus can sue, can inherit, double homicide, wrong to do sex selection abortions

Conclusions

1. Recognize the inherent, beautiful, seamless logic of the prolife position
2. Consistent application of our principles will keep us free from immorality
3. Our clear articulation of these principles and their logical application will help others achieve clarity in their own thought.