

## **The Connection Between Mothers and Their Babies**

Imagine you're a woman, and you discover that you're pregnant. Maybe you don't have enough money to raise a child. Maybe you think you're not old enough to be a parent. Maybe you're too scared to be a parent. So you decide to have an abortion because you think that is your only option or your best option. Now imagine you are a baby, a short time away from birth, when all your potential and the opportunities previously laid before you, are suddenly gone. In this essay, I will show why the pro-choice argument from bodily autonomy is wrong, how the fetus is more than a clump of cells, and how to support mothers while protecting unborn babies.

### **Bodily Autonomy**

Most pro-choice people think that the woman's bodily autonomy outweighs the baby's right to live. Bodily autonomy basically means a person's right to choose what happens to their body. They use that argument to justify aborting the unborn baby. They claim the fetus (which is Latin for small offspring) is a clump of cells and is not truly human. They are wrong. Biologists have proven that the fetus has a heartbeat and is human with its own distinct DNA. Also, if a fetus is less human because it's less developed, that means toddlers are less human than adults because they're less developed than adults. If a toddler is as human as an adult, then a fetus is as human as a toddler. The woman's bodily autonomy does not outweigh the baby's right to live.

### **Unborn Babies Are Human**

The fetus is more than just a clump of cells. It is human, so it has rights like every human, such as the right to life. You can't have any rights if you don't have the right to live. An unborn baby's heart starts beating as little as 18 days after conception. A baby in the womb has

brainwaves at 6 weeks, can cry at 12 weeks, can feel pain at 20 weeks, and can survive outside the womb at 23 weeks. You probably heard a long time ago that African-Americans were discriminated against because of skin color. That wasn't fair, right? In the same way, it's unfair to discriminate against unborn babies just based on them being in the womb and being less developed.

### **Support Mothers, Protect Unborn Babies**

Pregnant women who don't want to have their baby sometimes think there aren't any other good options. But there are options like induction when they don't want to go through the whole pregnancy. Remember, the baby can survive outside the womb at 23 weeks. Or, women can either give the baby up for adoption or go to a Magdalene Home, which cares for mothers and teaches them how to care for their baby. According to the Guttmacher Institute, about a million abortions happen a year in the United States and about a million families want to adopt a baby a year. It's a win-win situation if you keep your baby and put it up for adoption. I know it's a big ask, but it's also a big deal to do abortion because it has negative side effects including serious medical complications, emotional and psychological heartbreak. It is clear that abortion has many harmful effects on the mother and most definitely on the baby. The mother's body and mind will be healthier if she has her baby.

As you can see, the baby is human and women have more options than just abortion. God values every mother and baby and wants them both safe. Also, abortion can hurt a woman's body quite a bit and "bodily autonomy" does not outweigh the baby's right to life. God values us more than the universe. I hope we will rebuild a culture that supports mothers and protects the child in her womb. Go tell people about these options for mothers, and let's end abortion!