

## For God, a woman has an absolute right to life over a fetus, conception to birth

Dear Editor,

For Peter Droege's edification, (Colorado Statesman, Aug. 2 letter) it's common practice for organizations, and individuals for that matter, to issue the same letter to several local newspapers with edits made to accommodate the individual newspaper's word maximum.

Sadly Droege, himself a member of the Catholic laity, never expressed outrage at the sex abuse of born children by Catholic priests and the conspiratorial enabling behavior of, per The Dallas Morning News, nearly two thirds of bishops in charge of a diocese. That's far more than the word "some" would describe. He also didn't deny the Church no longer has a right to a place at the table in the debate about legal abortion.

Droege said that if he didn't believe God existed and would mead out consequences to his behavior, he'd act criminally and immorally. I know atheists who find their lives quite meaningful and who wouldn't "lie, cheat, steal, manipulate, or kill to make sure they had the best time possible." It's sad that Droege lacks something in character and upbringing that would allow him to act in a civilized moral manner simply because it's the right thing to do.

Surely Droege recognizes that what's wrong and immoral can be in the eye of the beholder, as it is with God. God didn't speak to elective abortion much less condemn it. Curious, considering the claims of anti-abortion extremists that God holds fetal life most sacred.

God chose to bestow official recognition of the beginning of human life, at the moment of birth. Genesis 2:7, "...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..." The Hebrew word for human being or

living person is *nephesh*, which is also the word for breathing. While neither God nor Life and Liberty for

Women deny that unborn human life in the womb is alive, it's by God's own desire and design human beings breath through their nostrils upon birth.

In Exodus 21:22-25 God leaves no ambiguity that for him, a born woman's life is paramount to that of an unborn fetus's life. "When men strive together and hurt a woman with child so that there's a miscarriage and yet no harm follows, the one who hurt her, shall be fined, according as the woman's husband shall lay upon him and he shall pay as the judges determine. If any harm follows then you shall give eye for eye, tooth for tooth, life for life."

If the woman miscarries but she doesn't suffer any other harm or death, the punishment is a fine for causing the miscarriage and the death of the fetus. However, if any harm to the woman follows, then the punishment is an eye for eye or life for life. The law considered any harm or the death of the fetus or any harm or the death of the woman as a loss or damage to property that belonged to the husband. That's very different than the fetus having independent intrinsic value, which is what anti-abortion extremists desperately try to extrapolate from these verses.

Anti-abortion extremists can't make the case that this described a premature birth and not a miscarriage or that the "harm" doesn't refer only to the woman. The phrase "with child" is merely descriptive of the woman and doesn't change the object of the word harm, that being the subject of the sentence, the woman. And these

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verses don't specify a particular time in a pregnancy. That's significant because a premature birth of a healthy fetus cannot

occur in the early stages of pregnancy. God made this law applicable during all stages of pregnancy.

For God, a woman has an absolute right to life over a fetus, conception to birth. For anti-abortion extremists, a fetus has that absolute right. But it's Roe vs. Wade that correctly and morally balances the right to life and liberty of both, hardly a public policy that would ever draw condemnation from God.

Finally, the most destructive path we can take is the path we've traveled before in which illegal abortion didn't save babies but

maimed and killed women, most dying from self-induced abortion. Women always have and always will seek out abortion, its legality notwithstanding. The answer isn't illegal abortion; it's reducing the number of unintended pregnancies.

Mr. Droege, you've the power to reduce by thousands each year the number of abortions without ever endangering women's health and life, by not only correctly wearing a condom yourself every time you have sex and don't want to be a father, but demonstrating to young men, operative word demonstrate, condom use. Condoms are 98% effective if used consistently and correctly. It's really that simple Mr. Droege.

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