

The Quandary Surrounding Abortion

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Both the pro-life and the pro-choice camps have put forth arguments for their position. Both the pro-life and the pro-choice camps have reduced those arguments to slogans: Right to Life, and Right to Choose. Both sides agree that when either the mother or the baby's life must end, then, under most circumstances, an abortion is called for.

Neither of them, however, really expose the ultimate quandary.

The choice to have or not have an abortion has been focused on a "situation." The current one is vastly different from that which was at its core during the last century. The current metrics, whether they be 15 weeks, 24 weeks, heartbeat, brain function or something else are all arbitrary, although each has its supporting rationale. At the tail end of most of the discussions, the "exceptions" arise. These are, "...except in the case of incest, rape ...," and so on. And that brings me to the quandary.

In the case of a pregnancy resulting from incest, rape, or relations with an underage girl, when an abortion is chosen, the baby is the one that is terminated. The baby, however, is innocent. If a life absolutely must be taken, might it not be better to terminate the life of the actual criminal? What would be the societal consequences should the next law require the mandatory death penalty for any male who commits rape, incest, or underage intercourse that results in a pregnancy?

My guess is that there would be a significant reduction in rape, incest, and intercourse with a minor.

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