COOL OPENING BEAT

Welcome back to *The Genesis of Conception*. My name is Rebekah David. Thank you very kindly for joining me today or tonight, whichever applies for you. This is a podcast in the space between the picket lines where we talk about all things pro-life, but we come at it from a strictly scientific, logical, provable basis.

On the previous episode, we discussed The Stage s of Fetal Development and what each month specifically entails. Today, we take a look at the big three ways to prove beyond a doubt that the child in the womb is most definitely human and living. After that, I have a surprise for you.

First is Scientific which is broken down into the three subsets of Living / Human / Whole. More on that later

> Living (cellular reproductivity)

> Human (human DNA & human parents) ; covered in my first video down below

> Whole Organism (nutrition, environment, time allow development)

Second is Philosophical where we get to look at a fascinating question

> There is no philosophical difference between a pre-born child and those who are already born

SLED Argument: coined by Stephen Shwartz

> Size - How does it determine value

> Level of Development - Too high, low, arbitrary

> Environment - Birth is species neutral

> Dependency - Why does that matter

Before we go any farther, let me tell you about a gentleman named Steve Wagner. He is executive director of Justice For All, which focuses on training / speaking / and outreach between the party lines when it comes to abortion vs. life saving measures for both mother and baby. He’s traveled all over the country and spent thousands of hours pouring into this endeavor. From what he saw, he outlined the Living / Human / Whole concept.

Living. Wagner pays specific attention to “Cellular reproductivity”. Thanks to Oregon State University’s science department research facility, we have an easy way to classify what cellular reproductivity means. Basically, humans are multicellular organisms. We have independent cells working together. Additionally, all living structures of human anatomy contain cells. Finally, almost all functions of human physiology are performed in or are initiated by cells. This is key, because, as we know compliments of the British Society for Cell Biology.org, the cells of any person hold all kinds of answers. My cells and your cells can connect our past to present (think ancestry). Cells also shed light on your level of health vs. your probability of contracting a disease (think Alzheimer’s disease or Cystic Fibrosis). Cells even play a role in proving the innocence or guilt of a person (think molecular DNA testing to clear someone of an accusation). Cells and their ability to reproduce hold the key to determining an uncountable number of things about a person. So, translating that to the womb: if you take cells from a growing baby in the womb, they will register as human DNA which means that they can do all the same things that the cells of an already born human can do. Additionally, in the process of growth within the womb, that child’s cells are reproducing at an incredible rate. Ergo, that child meets the requirements of Wagner’s Scientific proof #1 - which is LIVING

Proof 2: Human. Wagner brings light to human DNA & human parentage, which I went into great depths about in my first episode, but to recap - since we know scientifically that separate species cannot interbreed, then logically, if a woman is pregnant, she had to have gotten pregnant by a human’s male’s sperm. Since two humans procreating cannot produce anything but another human, the species within a human woman’s womb must be a human child. Therefore, the child meets the requirements of Wagner’s Scientific proof #2 - AKA HUMAN

Proof 3: Whole. For this, Wagner outlines a few criteria which must be met: nutrition, environment, and time allowed for development. To translate….if the life within the womb is given proper nutrition, a proper environment, and proper time to develop...then once the woman gives birth, it will be to a fully formed human baby. Now, of course, birth defects definitely exist, but I argue that neither you nor I would ever look at a deformed person we met in everyday life and tell them that they are anything other than a whole human being. Thus, the preborn child meets the requirements of Wagner’s Scientific proof #3 - WHOLE

So, to recap the scientific proofs of humanity: the child in the womb must be living and human and be born whole, which he or she most definitely is and will be. We have Anne from the Stages of Fetal Development episode as one fun reference to that.

On to the philosophical proof, which boils down to one concept...there is no philosophical difference between a child in the womb and humans living in the world after birth that does not also draw a line somewhere within the general populace. Allow me to give you a few examples.

1st: Dependency on another person. I have heard this used as a pro-choice argument inumerable times. An accurate philosophical response is that while dependency on the mother is very real for a child in the womb, we also see it in disabled people, most young children and quite a few elderly people (just look at the havoc that 2020 wrought on homes for the elderly for a great example of that). Additionally, I will point out that human beings at maximum dependency are still very much human. A good way to frame this is that dependency is only counted as a negative for those still in the womb. In every other segment of society, when someone needs extra help, they are looked on with extreme favor and it is both the right and the moral thing to do to give them that help. If it is right and moral outside of the womb, it follows that it would be right and moral within the womb.

For our 2nd philosophical example: let’s argue from the stance of needing an independently beating heart. First, science shows that a pre-born baby’s heart starts beating at about 3 weeks after fertilization (which I covered in the Stages of Fetal Development episode). Second, within the world at large there are many individuals with heart conditions who require some external mechanism in order to survive. Additionally, there are thousands for whom someone else’s already beating heart is their only solution to continue life. In 2018 alone (which is the most recent data collected by the US Department of Health & Human Services) there were 3,440 heart transplants, which means that 3,440 people literally needed to have a heart given to them by someone else in order to survive. Since we know it is correct to count a person with someone else’s heart or with a heart-beating mechanism as a living human, we should have zero qualms about giving pre-born infants the same kindness with their own hearts.

Our 3rd philosophical example is brain activity. There are those who make the argument that we cannot prove at what point of pregnancy brain activity officially kicks in. While this is scientifically inaccurate (refer to my Stages of Fetal Development episode), it also discounts a good portion of the medically incapacitated world.Think of a comatose patient for instance. Sometimes doctors have a fairly strong idea of when that person might wake up and go home and sometimes it is just a matter of waiting patiently and trusting on God’s providence. You can also keep in mind patients dealing with some stage of vegetation. There have been cases where the doctors gave no hope, but the family refused to give up and after some period of time, the person regained control over their own mind and body (Martin Pistorious is an excellent example of this). We count those people as being alive and worthy of care and love. The pre-born child should be no different.

So, as we can see, any philosophical line that one might wish to draw to say that a preborn child is not a real human can also be applied to some segment of the already born population. We know it to be morally wrong to murder the already born people, therefore it also must be morally wrong to murder the one in the womb.

Finally, we get to a fun acronym called S.L.E.D. which was developed by a man named Stephen Shwartz, although not the classical music composer who shares the same name. SLED stands for Size / Level of Development / Environment / Dependency. Stand To Reason.org breaks it down incredibly well for us.

S for Size: A preborn child is definitely smaller at all stages than a toddler, but that does not detract from his or her humanity. Humans are designed by Christ to be in a permanent state of growth in some capacity (height, hair, nails, etc.) for our entire lives. Cellular reproductivity is one of our top gifts. Also, in another light, both midgets and extremely tall people exist and their uniqueness is hailed and wondered at. So, one cannot be disqualified from being human due to diminutive stature in the womb.

L for Level of Development. Similar to how a preborn child is vastly smaller than a toddler or a teenager, their level of development is far diminished. An easy way to wrap one’s mind around this concept is as follows: humans live for at least 18 to 25 years before our pre-frontal cortex is fully developed (which we know thanks to the US National Library of Medicine). In simple terms, that is why teenagers and young adults do so many unwise things. Nobody would ever say that you should be allowed to murder a teenager or young adult simply for still being in development, which is something that they have absolutely no control over. In the same way, a preborn child is developing constantly and in all kinds of incredible ways. Some things take a couple weeks and some things take nine months. Just like the teenagers and young adults, preborn children have zero control over how fast they grow and they should not face execution simply based on not being as developed as a born human.

E for Environment. The environment of the pre-born child is his or her mother’s womb, for some period of time. Those on the pro-choice side have always said to me some variant of the following thought process: “its in the mother’s body, so its her choice what to do with it”....which logically translates to…”it’s location is undesirable or scary or uncomfortable to those around it, therefore, they can murder it”. So let’s take that argument and place it anywhere else on planet Earth. If we gave that logic and only that logic while standing trial for a murder anywhere else, the judge would show zero mercy. And why would that happen? Because people know intuitively that it is wrong to kill someone simply because their location on planet Earth is scary, undesirable, or uncomfortable to you. So, if you cannot do it anywhere else on planet Earth (and rightly so), you should not justify it within the womb either.

Finally: D for Dependency. This one actually loops back into our philosophical proofs, but let me expound just a smidgen further. The preborn child is dependent on the mother for nutrition and a proper environment (which should also sound familiar from the “Whole Organism” proof). But let’s go up a level...Newborns are still dependent on their parents to provide nutrition and a safe environment. How about a toddler in a swimming pool? How about any level of growing child in a vehicle / shopping center / or any public space? How about educational needs and self-care needs, even for most adults? We as a species are interdependent upon one another. We are not built to rely solely on ourselves for survival. We require human companionship, bonding, shared experiences, and the like just as much as we require food / water / air / and a safe abode. That’s why a very efficient form of torture is total isolation. That’s part of why 2020 was such a gut-wrenching year for most of us. Every single human at any stage of growth is dependent on other people for things every single day. We all realize that this is just a basic, immutable part of life. How on Earth do we not collectively extend the same realization to the ones in the womb who need it the most?

As you may have noticed, and as I stated at the beginning of this episode, these proofs intermingle with one another frequently and that is the beauty of it. Life was designed and created intentionally to be a stupendously woven and interdependent net of amazing possibilities. To see it any other light simply doesn’t do it justice. And life within the womb is an incredible part of that net.

Next...the surprise. I realized that you might be someone who wants to do some independent reading on all things pro-life. So, I am going to start recommending a book to you in each episode. They have all been vetted and come highly recommended. That said, today’s book is Unplanned by Abby Johnson. The short version is that Mrs. Johnson worked as a PP direction for a long time, until actually witnessing an abortion 1st hand and it completely shattered her world. From that moment to the present day she has been proudly pro-life and built an entire powerful brand around activism and helping women. I actually got to meet her in person and she is the sweetest, most humble, most caring type you could ask for. If listening to books is your thing, you can find it on Kindle / Audible / something called Kobo / and of course Amazon. And since we discussed Martin Pastorious, you can also check out his autobiography: *Ghost Boy* if you would like to. Ohh and before I receive any questions on this, no none of this is sponsored. That’s not my priority. I simply want to get truthful, helpful information out there.

This is the point where I want to offer encouragement. If you or someone you know is facing a crisis pregnancy, I have plenty of resources to guide you to. No judgement, only love and help. You can find me on social media as proudlyprolifegenzwoman, unless you are on FB, in which case I am Bex David (spell out).

Next Saturday, we will look at what abortions actually do and the aftermath for women. I know how heavy of a topic that is, but that makes it all the more important to discuss it in an honest, truthful, plain, and open way.

Until then, be blessed, never forget how much our Creator loves you, and here’s a friendly reminder that you are welcome here no matter what your background or beliefs are. Let’s be pioneers in the space between picket lines together.

Sources:

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