

In today's culture, there is an increasing effort to normalize abortion by downplaying its severity and immorality. According to dictionary.com, abortion is "the removal of an embryo or fetus from the uterus in order to end a pregnancy."<sup>1</sup> This definition avoids words like baby and human, or death and killing, because it is trying to hide the true nature of abortion. Abortion advocates defend their position by saying things like, "It's just a regular medical procedure," or "These babies don't count as real humans." Our society claims that abortion is not the purposeful killing and disposal of a child. However, the death of a precious baby, full of life's potential, should not simply be cast aside as meaningless.

According to the CDC on planned parenthood's website, 35 percent of abortions are performed after eight weeks of pregnancy.<sup>2</sup> This percentage means that approximately 216,856 babies a year are aborted after eight weeks.<sup>3</sup> By eight weeks, a baby has a steady heartbeat and most main organs are forming. By eight weeks, a baby has fingers and toes. By eight weeks, on the ultrasound, you can see that the baby is a baby.<sup>4</sup> Yet, many still have no problem with abortion.

The leading cause of death in the United States is heart disease according to the CDC's official website. Heart disease accounts for about 659,041 deaths per year. After heart disease is cancer, with 599,601 deaths in one year. After cancer the next biggest cause is unintentional accidents, then chronic respiratory disease, strokes, and the list goes on.<sup>5</sup> Nowhere on that list is abortion mentioned. Yet, in 2018, 619,591 abortions were performed.<sup>6</sup> Therefore abortion is the true second leading cause of death in whole of the United States. The CDC would have us believe that babies in the womb do not count as lives lost.

Recently, there has been a lot of death and hardship due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The number of people who have died is 111,484 less people than were killed by abortion in one year.<sup>7</sup> Our nation has been in a panic because of Covid 19. Why then, is abortion not eliciting the same response? There should be an even greater outrage because of the disposal of innocent children. Abortion is not portrayed in our culture as wrong or immoral. It is not even considered as death.

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<sup>1</sup> "Abortion." Dictionary.com, 2021 <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/abortion?s=t>

<sup>2</sup> "Abortion After the First Trimester in the United States." Planned Parenthood, January 2015. [https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer\\_public/99/41/9941f2a9-7738-4a8b-95f6-5680e59a45ac/pp\\_abortion\\_after\\_the\\_first\\_trimester.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/99/41/9941f2a9-7738-4a8b-95f6-5680e59a45ac/pp_abortion_after_the_first_trimester.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> "Abortion Surveillance-Findings and Results." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 25, 2020. [https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data\\_stats/abortion.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats/abortion.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Shiel, William C Jr. "Pregnancy and Fetal Development." MedicineNet, August 21, 2009 [https://www.medicinenet.com/image-collection/second\\_trimester\\_24\\_weeks\\_picture/picture.htm](https://www.medicinenet.com/image-collection/second_trimester_24_weeks_picture/picture.htm)

<sup>5</sup> "Leading Causes of Death." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, January 12, 2021 <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm>

<sup>6</sup> "Abortion Surveillance-Findings and Results." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 25, 2020. [https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data\\_stats/abortion.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats/abortion.htm)

<sup>7</sup> "Coronavirus in the U.S.: Latest Map and Case Count." The New York Times, February 26, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>

Thirteen years ago, I had a baby sister who died. She had a medical condition called Potter's Syndrome which meant she had dysfunctional kidneys. As a result, she didn't produce any amniotic fluid and her lungs were not able to develop properly. She lived for three and a half hours.

At the twenty week ultrasound the doctors told my parents she would not be able to survive outside the womb. Doctors said that my parents could either carry the baby to term or get an abortion. At twenty weeks, my sister could swallow and hear, she had fingernails and toenails, as well as eyebrows and eyelashes.<sup>8</sup> If my mom had decided to, she could have aborted my sister, even though the pregnancy was no danger to my Mom's life. Some people would have supported killing my sister because she wouldn't live anyway. My mom chose to let her baby live. If she could go back, my mom told me she would make the same decision every time. She would go through the discomfort of pregnancy for the joy of bringing a new life into this world, if only for a little while. My family got to meet our precious little Hannah Gloria. We got to touch her tiny perfect fingers and little feet. Though I do not remember her, I still have her tiny nightgown and a photo album with pictures of her. I look forward to the day when I will get to meet her again in Heaven.

I believe that every baby is important and valuable—before they are born, after they are born, and even from the moment of conception. Our culture must no longer be blinded by the lies around us, by those who tell us that fetuses are not babies, or do not have the right to live or say that it is not wrong to kill them. God says in the Bible, in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I set you apart."<sup>9</sup> We must not miss out on the joy of all the lives that God has made.

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<sup>8</sup> Shiel, William C Jr. "Pregnancy and Fetal Development." MedicineNet, August 21, 2009  
[https://www.medicinenet.com/image-collection/first\\_trimester\\_12\\_weeks\\_picture/picture.htm](https://www.medicinenet.com/image-collection/first_trimester_12_weeks_picture/picture.htm)

<sup>9</sup> "New International Version Bible." Bible Gateway, 2011. (Jeremiah 1:5)  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jeremiah+1%3A5&version=NIV>

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