

Snapshot: Beginning of life

Advances in medicine and science has given us wonderful insights into the beginning of life, but has also brought into focus some difficult ethical issues. How do we think Christianly through these questions?

**When does life begin? Is the fetus a person?
Does the fetus have rights?
What about sex-selection and genetic
enhancement?**



When does life begin?

At fertilisation all information needed for the development into a human life is present and the entire process is self-directing. The biblical evidence points to the conclusion that the child in the womb is human. He/she is fearfully and wonderfully made by God (Job 31:15; Ps.139:13-16). The unborn child can move, even leap (Gen.25:22; Luke 1:41, 44), be consecrated to God's service (Jer.1:5; Gal.1:15), be filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:15), and be blessed by God (Luke 1:42).

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Infertility: How should Christians respond ?

In Australia, 1 in 6 couples suffer from some form of infertility. Infertility raises personal, painful and complex questions. It's not an easy subject for most couples to talk about, especially within the church as it can be a taboo subject, or one surrounded by strongly held opinions. What options does a Christian couple consider? How can the Church support our brothers and sisters in this?

Medical advances: What are the questions Christians should be considering?

Does the fetus have rights? Should the way an embryo is created affect its rights? What about the rights of the mother..and father? Why is personhood an issue? What is the secular dialogue on these issues?

These are important questions. How we answer these questions, frames our views on abortion, assisted reproductive technology, genetic enhancement, sex-selection, new technologies such as CRISPR and so much more.