

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Fert. can take place from 30 min to 5 days after intercourse.

Occurs in fallopian tubes.

Unique genetics & gender present. A new life form!

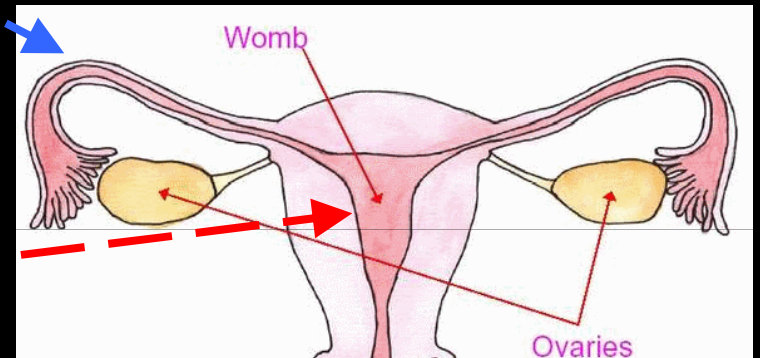
Implantation

6-14 days after fertilization.

Attachment to uterine wall.

Primitive Streak

20 days after fertilization.



When biological life begins is easy to see.

But when does a "person" begin?

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Comparable to skin cells?

Comparable to sperm & egg ("life" but not "a life")?

Not conception? Not personhood? Not pregnancy?

Not abortion if killed?

Implantation 6-14 days

Conception here? Personhood? Pregnancy?

Abortion here, but not before?

Primitive Streak 20 days

What about "conception" here? Etc.?

**Logical consequences will remain even
if we do not like or accept them!**

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Biblical "Conception" = Fertilization

- A) Genesis 38:18-19 Judah lay with Tamar, she conceived, then went her way...
- B) Hebrews 11:11 Sarah received the ability to "conceive", found or deposit sperm in an egg.
 1. "Conceive" = Used 10 of 11 times in the NT as "foundation of the world" (see Mt. 25:34)
 2. "Seed" = sperma, referring to seed, and semen.
 3. "Being past age" = an allusion to Sarah having reached menopause, where egg production stops.

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Biblical "Conception" (Gen. 38:18-19; Heb. 11:11)

Physical & Spiritual Life Begin Together

A) James 2:26 "body apart from the spirit is dead"

1. Life in the body = the presence of the spirit.
2. Contextual argument: If the body can live apart from the spirit, then faith can live apart from works!

B) Gen. 2:7 "breath of lives"

1. Physical & spiritual life given at same time!
2. Life in the body = the presence of the spirit.

Biblically the person (spirit) begins at the same time the physical life does!

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Biblical "Conception" (Gen. 38:18-19; Heb. 11:11)

Physical & Spiritual together (Js 2:26; Gen. 2:7)

Person = offspring of God (Ax.17:28-29; Gen.1:26)

A) Acts 17:28-29 What is a person?

1. "Our very being"

2. "We are the offspring of God"

B) Gen. 1:26 Made in God's image

Conceived a son (Luke 1:36)

A) When is gender present? At fertilization!

B) Is a "son" a person? If not... then what is it?

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Biblical "Conception" (Gen. 38:18-19; Heb. 11:11)

Physical & Spiritual together (Js 2:26; Gen. 2:7)

Person = offspring of God (Ax. 17:28-29; Gen. 1:26)

Conceived a son (Luke 1:36)

Conceived in belly (Luke 1:31; 2:21)

A) Are these exclusively the "womb"?

1. Luke 1:31 [gaster] stomach, belly

2. Luke 2:21 [koilia] hollow, cavity, abdomen

B) These are not exclusively the uterus, but general words. Thus fallopian tubes (where fertilization takes place) are included by these references; not excluded!

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Biblical "Conception" (Gen. 38:18-19; Heb. 11:11)

Physical & Spiritual together (Js 2:26; Gen. 2:7)

Person = offspring of God (Ax. 17:28-29; Gen. 1:26)

Conceived a son (Luke 1:36) Gender present at fertilization!

Conceived in belly (Luke 1:31; 2:21) Fertilization in fallopian tubes!

Implantation 6-14 days

Too late to be "conception", start of person, etc.

This position must exclude fertilization & scripture!

Primitive Streak 20 days

If you can defer personhood until this stage, why not until even later stages? (Slippery slope!)

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

If this is not a person, not conception, not pregnancy ("with child")...

Then killing this would be "preventing" pregnancy, and NOT be an abortion!

Implantation 6-14 days

If the body can live before the spirit is present, then faith can live apart from works (Js. 2:26)!

Primitive Streak 20 days

Defining personhood by developmental stages is precisely what humanists do! This is not a Biblical approach!

Unavoidable Consequences!

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Fertilized Egg - take this out of the woman's body and put it in a petri dish...

Does it cease to be fertilization? Conception?

Does it cease to form a human being?

Is it not a son or daughter? No genetic gender?

Even cloning produces a person (Gen. 2:21)!

Implantation 6-14 days

If never implanted, does it avoid personhood?

Is it "just cells"? (Was Eve ever implanted?)

Primitive Streak 20 days

If never implanted, does it not experience any stages of development?

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

"20-50% spontaneous abortion rate" before primitive streak = proof this is not a person yet?

- A) Why call it "abortion" when it has not been implanted yet... if it is not an abortion!
- B) EPF – Early Pregnancy Factor, a maternal protein detectable before implantation...
- C) Why does death rate = lack of personhood? What of death rate of infants through history? Does beginning of "personhood" change based on medical advances?
- D) "Would God fill heaven with so many gestated less than 4 weeks?" (Angels, etc.!).

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Unusual cases = proof this is not a person yet?

- A) Chimerism – 2 conceived, 1 dies, bodies merge.
- B) Twining – Conception, at least one spirit present, could be additional present then or be added later. Twining does not require deferral of personhood.
- C) Molar Pregnancy – fertilization gone wrong.
- D) Teratoma – Cancer like growth, sometimes prevents fertilization, sometimes kills after conception.

Normally, all human beings begin at fertilization, but not all attempts at fertilization result in a human being.

Exception, cloning such as Eve & monozygotic twinning.

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization (Fertilized egg)

Is intentionally killing this in the woman murder?

Is intentionally killing this in a petri dish murder?

Is "I would never kill this, but I cannot say it is a sin"
a Biblically sound position for either case?

Implantation 6-14 days

Is the whole difference at implantation?

If never implanted, then chemical removal for
convenience & embryo destruction for stem
cell research are alright?

Primitive Streak 20 days

Who would ever come up with such a distinction
for "personhood" from reading the Bible???

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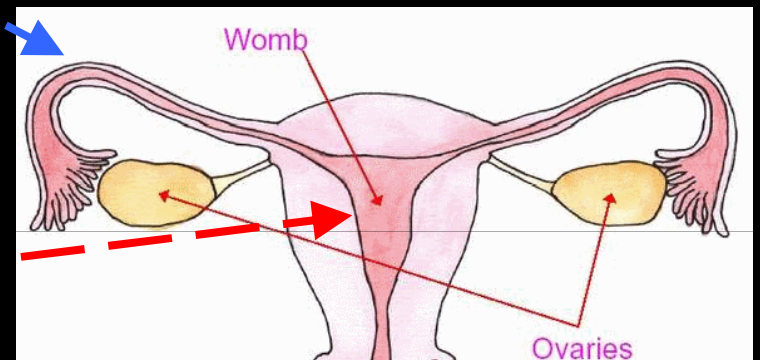
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6-14 days after fertilization.

Attachment to uterine wall.

Primitive Streak

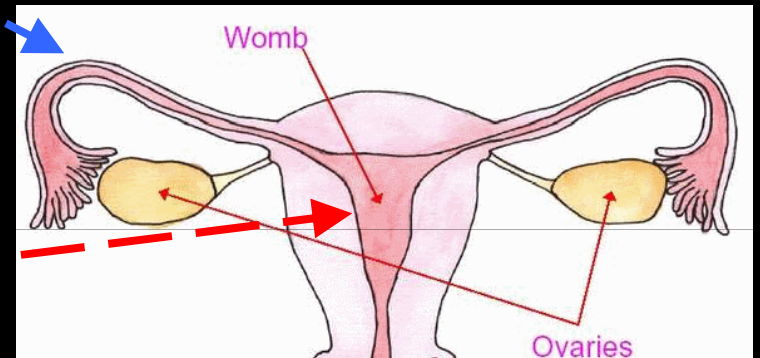
20 days after fertilization.



When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Fertilization

Biblical conception!
Start of our physical & spiritual
existence!
Thus, personhood begins
here!



Implantation

A stage of development too late
to be Biblical conception!

Primitive Streak

Another stage of development too
late to be Biblical conception!

Thus, to defer
personhood is
not Biblical.

When Does "Personhood" Begin?

Preventing conception
fertilization
pregnancy is one thing...

Fertilization

Destruction of a person for convenience or research is entirely another matter!

Implantation

"Preventing" implantation is entirely another!

Primitive Streak

Killing a human being is entirely another!

