



# 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!

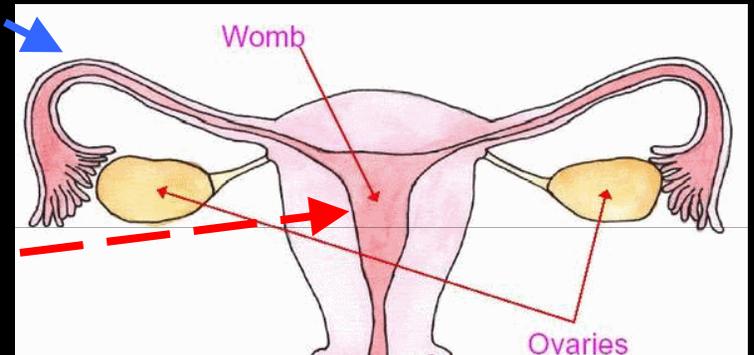
## Implantation

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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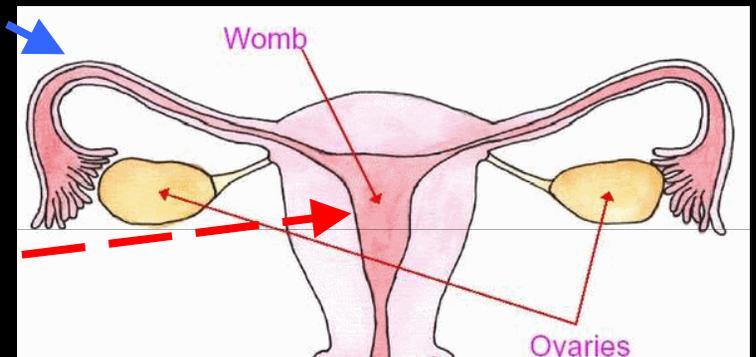
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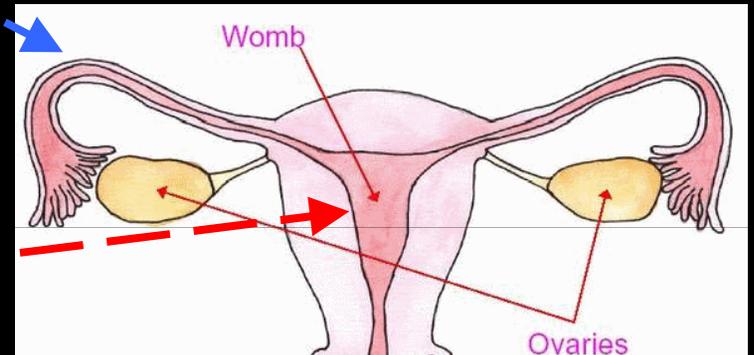
20 days after fertilization.



# 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!

