

# Matters of Life and Death

Life After Death  
The Sanctity of Life  
Abortion  
Euthanasia

# Life After Death

People believe in life after death because

- Its difficult to believe that this life is all there is.
- Earthly life is short.
- Reward for those who lead good lives.
- Life is sacred and should carry on beyond death.

# Immortality of the Soul

- This is the belief that humans have a physical body and a spiritual, immortal soul.
- Some Christians believe that the soul survives the death of the physical body and goes on to exist in Heaven.
- The soul goes before God and is judged

# Bodily Resurrection

- The dead will one day be restored to life again in bodily form.
- When a person dies there is no soul that lives on.
- On the Day of Judgement the dead will be raised and God will judge the world.

# Why some people do not believe in life after death

- When someone dies they eventually decay and nothing else seems to happen to them.
- If there is such a thing, the person could not really be dead in the first place - life after death is a logical impossibility.
- Is an afterlife desirable anyway.
- As an immortal soul or resurrected body then we are not the same person who died. There is no true life after death.

# The Sanctity of Life

- Life is a gift from God
- Humans are made in the image of God (Genesis 1)
- Humanity has a special relationship with God
- 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13)
- Only God can take away life

# The Abortion Act

- Abortion is legal if two doctors agree that:
- The mother's life is at risk if the pregnancy continues;
  - The mother's mental or physical well-being is at risk;
  - The baby is badly mentally or physically disabled, or is unlikely to live at birth;
  - There is a risk of harm to existing children.

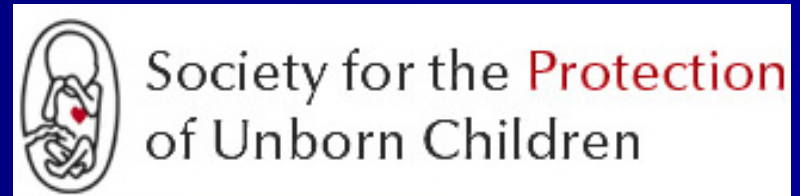
# When does life begin?

There are several possibilities:

- At the moment of conception (RCC)
- When the fertilized egg is implanted into the wall of the womb
- When the foetus moves within the womb
- At viability
- At birth

# Pro-Life

- Pro-Life is a belief that abortion is murder.
- This is because they believe that life begins at the moment of conception.
- The Roman Catholic Church is Pro-Life.



# The Catholic Church

The Roman Catholic Church says

- Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception.
- Every innocent being has the right to life.
- This means that abortion is absolutely wrong, whatever the circumstances.

# Pro-Choice

- Pro-Choice is the belief that the woman who is pregnant should make her own decision, after counselling, about whether or not to continue her pregnancy.
- The Baptist Church is Pro-Choice.



# The Church of England

- The Anglican Church is strongly opposed to abortion.
- However, it teaches that there can be strictly limited conditions which allow abortion.
- 'it is the mother who is pregnant, it is she who will have to agree to an abortion if that proves necessary... Her feelings and wishes are to be fully recognised.'

# Euthanasia

Euthanasia - A gentle and easy death in cases of **incurable** and **painful disease**.

Voluntary Euthanasia - When a patient who is **dying** or who is in **intolerable pain** asks someone to help him or her to **die** and so **avoid further suffering**.

It is **illegal** in Britain.

# Euthanasia in the Bible

Genesis 1:26-27 - So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He blessed them.

Exodus 20:13 - Do not kill

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 - Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God. You do not belong to yourselves but to God.

# The Opinion of different Christians

## Roman Catholic Church

The Church believes that **all life is sacred**.

Only **God** can make **decisions over death**.  
Euthanasia in any form is **murder**.

## Church of England

Although a person has a **right to refuse treatment** to prolong their life, they **do not have any right to die at their own time of choosing**.

# Euthanasia in the Law

- In the Law of Britain euthanasia is illegal.
- To help another person to die means you could be imprisoned for murder or manslaughter.