

ABORTION



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In general what is your attitude towards Abortion?

I believe that abortion is an issue between a woman and her doctor; it is a health matter. It has nothing to do with the legal aspect, or anyone else who might like to decide what a woman should do with her body. The choice to abort a fetus is simply a woman's decision.

Do you think a man has rights?

No, we don't think so. For the simple reason that you'll get more situations like Chantal Daigle.

(On July 7 1989, Jean-Guy Tremblay (25 years old), obtained a temporary injunction forbidding Chantal Daigle (21 years old), from aborting their fetus. It was upheld July 17 in Val d'or by Justice Jacques Viens of Quebec Superior Court (Daigle was twenty weeks pregnant). On July 26, the Quebec Court of Appeal also upheld the injunction ruling 3-2 that a fetus has legal rights under the Quebec Charter of Rights under and Freedoms. On August 8, the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously struck down an injunction barring Chantal Daigle from ending her twenty second week pregnancy (the ruling was 9-0), but by this point Daigle had already gone to the United States for her abortion. With the Courts decision, Quebec has joined the other provinces with the view that this cannot be done - women cannot be treated this way. —Editorial Note: taken from The Montreal Gazette).

If a man is going to have a decision over what a woman does with her body, the women will become second class citizens. If the law decides to say that yes a man does have rights, where would you draw the line?

But, a man does help in the conception.

Yes, he certainly does. What I think should happen, is that the two people involved must sit down and talk to each other on a rational level, to discuss the outcome of the fetus. If they come to an equal consensus in a decision, then that is fine. However, there is no way a man should be able to say to a woman that she has to have the child. It is hard, but in any good relationship there is talking going on and you do not need to resolve your personal dilemma in the courts. People are capable of making good decisions; they respect reproduction.

Is abortion the killing of an unborn child?

The statement that abortion is killing a unborn child, is made by people who believe that personhood begins at the moment of conception. Many Canadians do not hold this point of view. Most consider abortion a humane and responsible decision by people who, because of their life circumstances, cannot welcome and properly care for a child.

What do you think the fetus is?

I think it is much like anything else that grows - a group of cells. When a woman decides that she must have an abortion, it is just the removal of cells. The anti-choice movement has a film called, "The Silent Scream"; This movie is used as propoganda. We have a film called, "Abortion for Survival," which shows you what happens during an abortion. It looks like a simple removal of some red liquid from the uterus. Abortion is not painful.

When do you think that the soul or personhood enters the body?

I believe you are not here, until you are here. When you are physically in this world, then you are a human being - and that's birth! Abortion is one way, but there are so many ways. Automatic abortion is what they call miscarriages - women have them all the time. Do these fetus' have souls? Is it OK because it is natural?

Should there be a limit on abortions?

No, I think that it is so minimal when women have third, fourth or fifth abortions, that it is practically non-existent. For the women that do have more than one, then perhaps somewhere along the way they are not getting proper contraceptives or education. One of the biggest reasons for abortions is failed contraceptives. It is women who have put all the protections in place (IUD, the Pill, etc.), and that system has failed them and they find themselves pregnant.

What about adoption?

The problem in our world is that people want white children. There are so many kids out there to adopt. There are millions of homeless children in this world - people do not want them. So what are we saying, that we are going to become an elite society? Whereby we only want white children, and we will wait on a list for five years to get a white child. We live in a democratic society where we should have a choice. Women should never be forced to bear children for other people to adopt.

How long have you believed in abortion?

Forever - I think it is more than abortion. If we just leave it at abortion, it is not correct. Women as human beings have to be given the right and dignity to make their own decisions - we are very capable of doing that! If the law decides they are going to control the women's reproductive system, then that is part one. The government is already controlling our wages, we only make 60% of what men earn - it's awful! The list goes on . . . We are like women who are abused (sexually, emotionally and physically). We are fighting against violence; to control a woman's body is another form of violence against women. We are fighting for dignity, for the fact that we want to be equal.

What are your feelings towards the Anti-Choice movement?

I feel the anti-choice side believes in quantity. Just get them all here and then let's worry about them. There is not enough to go around, but just get all these children here. I am a strong believer of quality; if you are going to have a child in the 20th century, give them some quality to their life. I'm concerned that every child is a wanted child. The anti-choice is concerned that every fetus is born. Everything after that is irrelevant. There are people on the pro-choice side who would not have an abortion. They think that abortion is not a thing that they would want to do for themselves, but they certainly would not tell someone else that they should or shouldn't have an abortion. It is simply a matter of us saying, we believe it is a choice. You decide what you want to do and I really have no business taking it any further. We strongly believe that the other side is not for choice, they are for structure and law.

In conclusion:

It is such an interesting time. I would like to think that the Supreme Court's decision of 9 - 0 for Chantal Daigle is just the beginning. I hope that someday Canada will do away with any policy or law on abortion. In Canada, we are the 71% majority; people believe it is none of their business what others do. I have friends that have had abortions and my God, I know it is not an easy thing. If both sides of the fight can come together to put all their money into education and making people aware of contraceptives - then the need for abortion will be so minimal that the fight will be over.

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