



GLC Weekly (20 March 2024)

Foundations for Life #8:

Scientific & Medical Evidence of Humanity of the Baby in the Womb

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Correction: In last week's email about President Biden advocating child sacrifice, when he criticized "state laws . . . criminalizing doctors," he meant he opposes laws that punish doctors for murdering babies; that is, he supports doctors aborting babies anytime during pregnancy without any penalties or imprisonment.

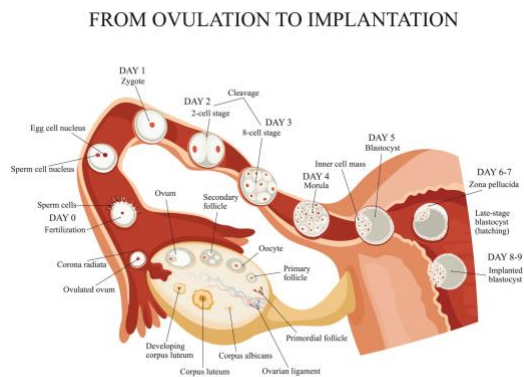
This week let's review some of the Scientific and Medical Evidence of the Humanity of the Baby in the Womb (*Abortion Worldwide Report*, part I). In "A Scientific View of When Life Begins," Professor Maureen Condic proclaimed, "The conclusion that human life begins at sperm-egg fusion is uncontested, objective, based on the universally accepted scientific method . . . and on ample scientific evidence."

Fertilization/Conception. The *Concise Medical Encyclopedia* of the American Medical Association defines conception as: "The fertilization of an egg by a sperm that initiates pregnancy." Human conception (fertilization) occurs when a female egg cell (23 chromosomes) and male sperm cell (23 chromosomes) combine into a single cell (46 chromosomes), merging DNA into the initially 1-celled zygote (i.e. a 1-celled embryo).

Genetics/DNA: The zygote/embryo is human in its genetic makeup, distinguishable from nonhuman organisms based on DNA. The microscopic boy or girl is genetically distinguishable from other humans—even the mother—and will retain this unique genetic makeup through development from fertilization until death, whether inside or outside the womb.

Human Development in the Womb: Within minutes after conception, functional changes and cell divisions begin. The zygote/embryo is clearly an organism by function (not a tissue of the mother), though depends on the mother for survival, just as all organisms have survival dependencies. Here are some stages of development in the womb:

- As depicted in the image, the zygote divides into multiple cells, and the cells configure into a morula of 12 or more cells;



- Then into a blastocyst with 60 or more cells, which attaches to the wall of the uterus (implantation) 5–8 days after fertilization;
- Cells at the site of implantation on the uterus wall form the placenta;
- By about 3 weeks from fertilization, the embryo is forming organs, including the heart that is pumping blood;
- The placenta enables exchange of oxygen, nutrients, and waste between the blood of the embryo and the blood of the mother’s body without these blood systems mixing. Not only are these two bloods genetically distinct, they may even be incompatible if the mother and embryo have different blood types;
- The formation of most organs occurs by 10 weeks from fertilization, excepting most of the brain and nervous system;
- Sensory receptors begin developing by week 7 or 8, and these receptors are sufficiently distributed and connected to the nervous system by weeks 18–20 to enable the fetus to feel pain;
- Though the nervous system and brain are still developing, the reaction of the fetus to stimuli and release of stress hormones are consistent with the understanding that the fetus can feel pain;
- The mother can feel the movement of the baby in her womb usually by weeks 13–20 (so-called “quickening”). This is related to various development milestones involving the response of the child to stimuli, including voices, especially the mother’s and father’s voices, which are distinguishable to the baby around week 25.

Thus, from the moment of fertilization, a rapid development process begins that forms all the cells, tissues, organs, muscles, and bones of a unique human boy or girl, provided there is no intervention to stop the process. The distinction of the embryo/baby from the mother’s body, regarding both genetics and biological autonomy, refutes the misrepresentation of the embryo as mere “tissue.”

Does Pregnancy Begin at Conception or Implantation? We know pregnancy begins at fertilization (conception), not implantation. But some doctors and medical associations have arbitrarily sought to redefine pregnancy as beginning at the point of implantation in order to dispense contraceptives that may function as abortifacients and abortifacients. In 1965, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) published their redefinition: “Conception is the implantation of a fertilized ovum” (“Terminology Bulletin No. 1”).

Dr. J. C. Willke, MD, identified this “redefinition of the terms used” as “misinformation,” saying, “This has fooled untold numbers of people, including many doctors. But we are not talking about the mother’s body. It is quite obvious that life does not begin when this new human life is one week old. Life begins when the sperm penetrates the ovum” (Willke & Mattes, “Dispelling the Myths”). The resulting confusion is evident in a 2008–2009 survey of U.S. obstetricians and gynecologists: while most respondents (57%) acknowledge that pregnancy begins at conception, 28% said it begins at implantation, and 16% were unsure (Chung et. al.,

“Obstetrician-Gynecologists”). Consequently, countless women may have aborted their less than one-week old babies without intending and knowing what occurred.

Pray that the medical profession would be restored to its noble purpose of saving and never taking human life, and of knowing, living and speaking truth, including about the development of the baby in the womb, and being honest about contraceptives and abortifacients.

For the LORD, the sacred gift of life, and remembrance of the babies,

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*The purpose of the Global Life Campaign is to **call and equip trustworthy disciples inspired by the Holy Spirit**, to be a catalyst movement to establish principles and practices in nations that align with the Word of God and respect human life.*