

Ten Surprising Facts concerning the Abortion Controversy in America

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.
Dept. of History, Bethany Lutheran College
President, The Hausvater Project

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**To schedule a workshop in your area,
Contact Dr. MacPherson:**

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.
www.ryanmacpherson.com

Dept. of History, Bethany Lutheran College
www.blc.edu

President, The Hausvater Project
www.hausvater.org

Eight LAW-Oriented Facts

- 1. The legalization of abortion arose from the legalization of contraception, despite a promise to the contrary.**
- 2. Teen pregnancy rates increased after abortion was legalized ... but birth rates decreased.**
- 3. Abortion has remained legal in the United States because five influential people did not want the Supreme Court to admit that it had made a mistake in *Roe v. Wade* or to inconvenience women who were pursuing careers.**
- 4. The “exceptions” in pro-life legislation and pro-life doctrinal statements undermine the rule.**

Eight LAW-Oriented Facts

- 5. Surgical abortion is not the only form of abortion, nor is it necessarily the most common.**
- 6. Almost everyone has become “pro-choice,” even many of abortion’s opponents.**
- 7. On-demand access to abortion isolates women and hinders men from helping them, rather than liberating women or making women equal to men.**
- 8. “Reproductive health care” is neither reproductive, nor healthy, nor caring.**

Two GOSPEL-Oriented Facts

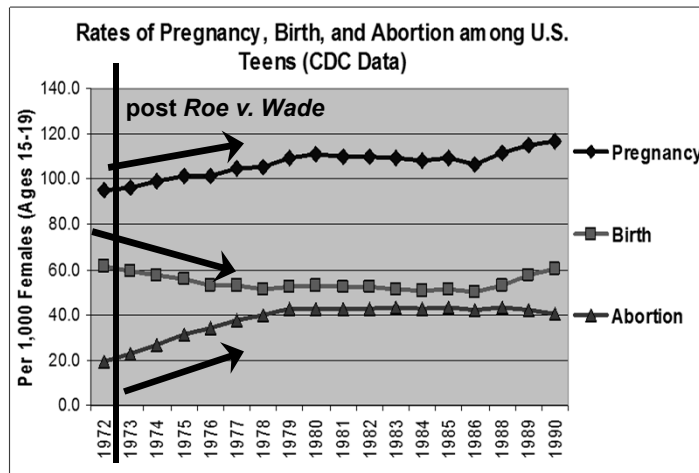
9. Three of the most influential supporters of abortion have repented of their sins against the unborn and the women bearing them and have received forgiveness in Christ.
10. Lutheran theology, with its firm foundation in Scripture and its historic richness in the catechism and hymnal, points the way forward.

LAW-Oriented Facts

1. The legalization of abortion arose from the legalization of contraception, despite a promise to the contrary.
 - ***Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965): Contraception**
 - A Constitutional right to “privacy”—somewhere (?) in the 5th, 9th, 10th, and/or 14th Amendment(s).
 - “...penumbras [fuzzy shadows], formed by emanations from those guarantees...”
 - Planned Parenthood’s attorney assured the Supreme Court that legalizing contraception would not lead to legalization of abortion.
 - ***Roe v. Wade* (1973): Abortion**
 - The Constitution’s “penumbra” supporting a “privacy” right applies to abortion just as much as to contraception.

LAW-Oriented Facts

2. Teen pregnancy rates increased after abortion was legalized ... but birth rates decreased.



LAW-Oriented Facts

3. Abortion has remained legal in the United States because five influential people did not want the Supreme Court to admit that it had made a mistake in *Roe v. Wade* or to inconvenience women who were pursuing careers.

Sandy

Tony

Dave

John

Harry

LAW-Oriented Facts

3. Abortion has remained legal in the United States because five influential people did not want the Supreme Court to admit that it had made a mistake in *Roe v. Wade* or to inconvenience women who were pursuing careers.

Sandra Day O'Connor

Anthony Kennedy

David Souter

John Stevens

Harry Blackmun

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992):

“[O]verruling *Roe*’s central holding would ... seriously weaken the Court’s capacity to exercise the judicial power and to function as the Supreme Court of a Nation dedicated to the rule of law.”

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992):

“There is a limit to the amount of error that can plausibly be imputed to prior courts. If that limit should be exceeded, disturbance of prior rulings would be taken as evidence that justifiable reexamination of principle had given way to drives for particular results in the short term. The legitimacy of the Court would fade with the frequency of its vacillation.”

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992):

“A decision to overrule *Roe*’s essential holding under the existing circumstances would address error, if error there was, at the cost of both profound and unnecessary damage to the Court’s legitimacy, and to the Nation’s commitment to the rule of law. It is therefore imperative to adhere to the essence of *Roe*’s original decision, and we do so today.”

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992):

“[F]or two decades of economic and social developments, people have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail.”

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992):

“The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.”

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992):

- Don't admit a mistake.
- Don't inconvenience working women.

LAW-Oriented Facts

4. The “exceptions” in pro-life legislation and pro-life doctrinal statements undermine the rule.
 - **Rape**
 - Less than 1%—exploited for political rhetoric.
 - If abortion were permitted only in cases of rape, might the number of “rape” charges increase?
 - Ought we punish the child for the sin of the father?
 - **Incest**
 - Less than 1%—exploited for political rhetoric.
 - Ought we punish the child for the sin of the father?
 - **Threat to the Mother's Health**
 - Health or Life?
 - Physical Health?
 - Mental Health?

LAW-Oriented Facts

4. The “exceptions” in pro-life legislation and pro-life doctrinal statements undermine the rule.

Doe v. Bolton (1973)

Health must be defined broadly:

“...in light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age—relevant to the well being of the patient.”

“for the mother’s health” = abortion on demand

- Threat to the Mother’s Health
 - Health or Life?
 - Physical Health?
 - Mental Health?

LAW-Oriented Facts

5. Surgical abortion is not the only form of abortion, nor is it necessarily the most common.

- Surgical Abortion: 1,000,000 to 1,500,000/year
- Hormonal Birth Control: unknown number
 - FDA Labels
 - Planned Parenthood Attorney
 - Medical Journals
 - LFL Position Statement
- ...all caution about abortifacient properties

LAW-Oriented Facts

5. **Surgical abortion is not the only form of abortion, nor is it necessarily the most common.**

FDA Labels:

- **“Alterations include changes in the cervical mucus (which increase the difficulty of sperm entering into the uterus) and the endometrium (which reduce the likelihood of implantation).”**
- **Labels for all “birth control” pills, patches, implants, injections, and intrauterine devices (IUDs) identify the risk of abortifacient effects.**

LAW-Oriented Facts

5. **Surgical abortion is not the only form of abortion, nor is it necessarily the most common.**

Planned Parenthood Attorney:

- **“The most common forms of what we generically in common parlance call contraception today, IUDs, low-dose birth control pills ... act as abortifacients. They are correctly labeled as both. Under this statute, which defines fertilization as the point of beginning, those forms of contraception are also abortifacients. Science and medicine refer to them as both.”**
(Webster v. Reproductive Health Services, 1989)

LAW-Oriented Facts

5. Surgical abortion is not the only form of abortion, nor is it necessarily the most common.

Medical Journals:

- “Even if ovulation does occur, the effect of the drug upon endometrial function may still ... inhibit implantation when administered on day one of pregnancy.” (*An. Rev. of Pharmacology*, 1964)
- “Women should continue to be informed, as they are now in the Plan B labeling, that its use may affect postfertilization events.” (*Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2006, authored by the nation’s leading authority on contraception)

LAW-Oriented Facts

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Medical Journals:

- “Although the precise mechanism of action of EC is not known, it is thought to act primarily by inhibiting or delaying ovulation but may also alter the endometrial lining to prevent implantation. This regimen is not (?) abortifacient and will not disrupt an established pregnancy.” (*Pediatrics*, 2001)
- “Established Pregnancy” = Implantation
(14 days after fertilization)

LAW-Oriented Facts

5. **Surgical abortion is not the only form of abortion, nor is it necessarily the most common.**

LFL Position Statement:

- **“Some abortifacients, such as the IUD, the ‘morning after pill,’ and RU-486, which destroy the fertilized egg or prevent its implantation in the uterine wall have been mislabeled as contraceptives.”**
- **“Lutherans for Life opposes the use of abortifacients and urges its members to become educated on the nature and effects of all forms of contraception and abortifacients.”**

LAW-Oriented Facts

6. **Almost everyone has become “pro-choice,” even many of abortion’s opponents.**

- **“Are you done, or do you want to have more?”**
- **“You must be trying for a boy this time.”**
- **“My husband is off to see Dr. Snippy this week. We’re done with diapers for good!”**
- **“I can’t believe how closely spaced their children are! Don’t they know any better!”**
- **“How many children do you plan to have?”**

(Pro-Life vs. Anti-Abortion)

LAW-Oriented Facts

7. **On-demand access to abortion isolates women and hinders men from helping them, rather than liberating women or making women equal to men.**
 - **RU 486 “Abortion Pill”:**
 - No need for a doctor, but ...
 - ... all alone with a self-induced miscarriage.
 - **With “choice” comes “responsibility”:**
 - Ex-boyfriend: “It’s your fault you didn’t get an abortion. Why should I pay child support?”
 - Father, brother, etc.: “This wouldn’t have happened had you been more responsible!”

LAW-Oriented Facts

8. **“Reproductive health care” is neither reproductive, nor healthy, nor caring.**
 - **Not Reproductive (Nor Procreative)**
 - **Nor Healthy**
 - 50% survival rate
 - Half-hearted, not holistic, therapy
 - **Nor Caring**
 - Love ≠ What Feels Right or Seems Nice
 - Love = Care for the Weak and Vulnerable
 - Do not tempt a mother to become a murderer.
 - Help a mother to care for her child.
 - Do not isolate and alienate the father.
 - Encourage him to accept responsibility.

GOSPEL-Oriented Facts

9. Three of the most influential supporters of abortion have repented of their sins against the unborn and the women bearing them and have received forgiveness in Christ.
- Norma McCorvey (“Jane Roe” of *Roe v. Wade*)
 - Sandra Cano (“Mary Doe” of *Doe v. Bolton*)
 - Bernard Nathanson, M.D. (“Abortion King”)



GOSPEL-Oriented Facts

10. Lutheran theology, with its firm foundation in Scripture and its historic richness in the catechism and hymnal, points the way forward.
- Law and Gospel
 - Law condemns—not even pro-lifers fulfill it.
 - The Gospel comforts:
 - Christ has fulfilled the Law for us.
 - Christ has borne the punishment due us.
 - Christ brings us forgiveness, life, and salvation.
 - Means of Grace
 - Not a mere “feeling,” but the Holy Spirit’s work.
 - Christ comes to us through the Word, through Holy Baptism, and through the Lord’s Supper.

GOSPEL-Oriented Facts

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- **Catechism**
 - **Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.**
 - "... that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor"
 - **First Article: Creation**
 - "... knit me together in my mother's womb" (Ps 139)
 - **Second Article: Redemption**
 - "... purchased and won me from all sins"
 - **Third Article: Sanctification**
 - "... daily and richly forgives all my sins"
 - **Fourth Petition: Daily Bread ...**
 - "... a godly spouse and children"
 - "... food, drink, clothing, shoes, ... health"

GOSPEL-Oriented Facts

10. Lutheran theology, with its firm foundation in Scripture and its historic richness in the catechism and hymnal, points the way forward.

- **Hymnody**
 - "Chief of Sinners, though I Be"
 - "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"
 - "By Grace I'm saved, Grace Free and Boundless"

 - "How Precious Is the Book Divine"
 - "Baptized into Thy Name Most Holy"
 - "I Come, O Savior, to the Table"

GOSPEL-Oriented Facts

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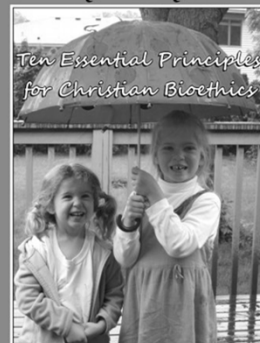
- “Lutherans for Life continues to support ministries ... which offer assistance to those experiencing the aftermath of abortion (women, men, grandparents, families, and siblings) and to inform and care for those individuals to the end that they may receive from Christ comfort in their time of grief, forgiveness for their sins, and the power to forgive themselves and others.”
(LFL Position Statement on Abortion Healing)

To learn more, order Dr. MacPherson’s book, *The Culture of Life*, or contact him to schedule a workshop for your organization:

Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.
www.ryanmacpherson.com

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Ryan C. MacPherson, Ph.D.

Other books by Dr. MacPherson include:

- ***Studying Luther's Large Catechism***
- ***Rediscovering the American Republic (2 vols.)***
- ***Telling the Next Generation***

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