

Women Rights

by

Phil Rasmussen

For decades women rights has been one of the hottest topics in US politics. And it has been one of the most misunderstood by men and women. Historically, women in most societies have been subjugated, oppressed and deemed inferior to men. Their role often centers on the traditional gender roles of taking care of the home and family, while males provide for the food and security of the home.

This is understandable given the differences in from religious teachings, religious law, and cultural traditions. For example, in the Quran both men and women are spiritually equal, but it does not address a woman's role. Muslim based law however assigns different rights, expectations and roles to men and women.

Many other religions have a more intertwined and complicated philosophy regarding the roles of men and women. Christianity is no different.

In Genesis 2:18 the **Bible** says: “. . .It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper. . .” Yet in Genesis 2:24 it says: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

There are other paradoxes on the relationship between man and woman in the **Bible** but they all have to be taken in context. The problem with defining this relationship over the centuries has been the “cherry picking” of verses that are beneficial to supporting someone's belief. In other words it is taking a verse or other statement out of context.

Genesis 2:18 and 1 Corinthians 11:8 describe the origin of woman, while following verses in each book and chapter, describe the equality between man and woman. Essentially the **Bible** tells us that neither man nor woman is superior to the other. This relationship is further embraced in Ephesians 5:21 where husband and wife are to submit to each other.

Although equality between men and women is revealed in both the Old and New Testaments, scripture also recognizes the physical and psychological differences that complement and enrich one another. This recognition is not intended to create a division of the sexes or the superiority of one over the other. Galatians 3:28 clearly states that there is no distinction between male and female.

However, this equality is often ignored or forgotten as scripture is misconstrued whether deliberately or by ignorance. Evil doers push this narrative in order to seek power over the dominion of mankind

The concept of “women’s rights” existed as far back as ancient times. The rights then varied just as much as they do today. In the United States, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was established in 1873 to fight for women's rights. Fifteen years prior to WCTU’s formation, George Bishop wrote, “*Every woman her own lawyer. A private guide in all matters of law. . .*” The book covered 77 points of law in six categories (abandonment, agreements, administrators, alimony, adultery, and arbitrations and awards).

Since then, much has changed with regard to women’s rights. The chief areas of change include:

- right to vote
- right to education
- equal employment opportunity
- reproductive rights
- freedom from violence
- and more recently parental rights

One of the [United Nations'](#) goals is gender equality. The UN believes gender equality is a fundamental human right, and contends that abortion is a fundamental human right that needs to be decriminalized and legalized. Yet while this appears to be altruistic, it is in fact, counter to the UN’s mandate to prevent genocide.

Typically we think of genocide as an attempt to wipe out a “national, ethnical, racial or religious group.” While the [UN's](#) definition includes these groups, it is not limited to them and should countermand any legalization of abortions.

1. Killing members of the group;
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

From a biblical viewpoint, there are no direct references to abortion. However various verses support that a fetus is actually a human being. [[Jeremiah 1:5](#), [Psalm 139:13](#), [Isaiah 49:1](#)] Abortion advocates however have pushed abortion as a woman’s right and have turned it into a political issue.

Legal and religious discussions appear to be in conflict with each other. However there is a common ground between both sides that is often mentioned but ignored. All major religions distinguish the difference between killing and murder. In Christianity and Judaism, the dominion over the sanctity of life is given to mankind. Both the New and Old Testaments discuss the differences between murder and killing. It is ironic that so many liberals support “Save the [whales, manta rays, tigers, rhinos, etc.]” movements, and yet, in their hypocrisy, they support abortion.

At the heart of the legal debate is the determination of when a fetus is considered human and at what point abortions should not be permitted. The National Library of Medicine has two articles discussing when a fetus becomes human.

[Fetus as Human Being: Where is the Cut-off Point?](#)
[Personhood status of the human zygote, embryo, fetus](#)

Aside from philosophical discussions as to what constitutes a human, the detection of a fetal heart beat is often used in court to describe this transformation. In the 5th or 6th week of pregnancy, the baby’s heart begins to pulse. Around weeks 17 to 20, the baby’s hearts is developed enough to see the heart chambers on an ultrasound. [[What to Expect](#)] [[BabyCenter](#)]

According to [NPR](#), twenty-seven states permit abortions beyond 22 weeks from the first day of the last menstrual period.

Demographics – Women Having Abortions

- 57% women in their 20s
31% women in their 30s
4% women in their 40s
8% teens
 - 42% were black
30% were white
22% were Hispanic
7% were other races/ethnicities.
 - 61% had at least one previous birth
- [KFF](#)

Findings by the Brookings Institute, NIH, and other organizations indicate that about 95% of abortions are the result of “unintended pregnancies.” Most of the reasons given for having an abortion are social and economic based. In a [BMC](#) article,

“Understanding why women seek abortions in the US,” the reasons for seeking abortions cover 11 broad areas.

Reasons for Abortions	
Not financially prepared	40%
Not a good time	36%
Issues with partner	31%
Need to focus on other children/dependents	29%
Interferes with future plans	20%
Not emotionally or mentally prepared	19%
Health issue	12%
Unable to provide a “good” life	12%
Not independent or mature enough	7%
Influence from family or friends	5%
Don’t want children	3%

Some reasons given on other studies include:

- Housing limitations
- Having a baby would dramatically change my life
- I don’t want to be a single mother or am having relationship problems
- Have completed their childbearing years
- Not wanting people to know they had sex or became pregnant
- Not knowing they were pregnant until later in the pregnancy
- Have transportation difficulties
- Lack of insurance coverage

It should be noted that about 12% of women who have abortions claim health related reasons that include:

- Concerns for their health
- Concerns for the health of the fetus
- Drug, tobacco, or alcohol use
- Non-illicit prescription drug or birth control use
- Worsening of existing health issues
- Mental health concerns
- The effect of medications for existing health conditions on the fetus

Although rape and incest are often mentioned in the media, these two issues have not been discussed in the majority of research on why women have abortions. That does not mean that they should be ignored, especially since both are crimes that could lead to pregnancy.

In 2023, there were 3,591,328 births and 1,026,690 abortions according to the CDC. . This means that almost 29% of women who got pregnant had abortions.

The UN and human rights groups continue to perpetuate the belief that abortion bans violate “[the rights to be free from violence, to privacy, to family, to health, and even the right to life.](#)” Most of these groups advocate for prenatal services, safe childbirth, and access to contraception. Their advocacy for access to abortion however does not protect women from rape, incest/molestation, or violence.

While US laws exist to “protect” women from rape, incest and violence, they do not prevent anything. The only protection that can be afforded the victim is incarceration of the perpetrator, but even that is not protection when parole, early release or light sentencing is given. The liberal and leftist push for women rights, aka abortion using crime to back their agenda, has not been connected to the reasons given for the many abortions committed. In other words this is a political agenda based on the convolution of the facts for the purpose of winning elections.

If health concerns were truly the issue, then the liberals and leftist would be pushing for more implementation and use of contraceptives, birth control devices, and medical procedures that prevent conception. Implementing any of these approaches should be a woman’s choice and should not involve any government interference.

The Supreme Court’s decision on [Roe v Wade](#) is misconstrued and has reignited the abortion issue across the country. The decision simply stated that the initial decision was government overreach, took abortion out of the federal government’s hands and returned the issue back to the states. Many states have since enacted laws either prohibiting abortions or restricting them based on rape, incest, or if the mother’s life is at risk. It should be noted that the “[Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004](#),” while eliminating abortion from the act, addressed when the “unborn child” was considered human, which is essentially at conception.

To get around restrictive abortion laws, some women will use the “abortion pill” to terminate an abortion. Another alternative, often used prior to the abortion pill development, is called a D&C (dilation and curettage). The [D&C](#) is the same procedure used in many abortions, but known by another name.

If abortions are to be a woman’s right, then like all of our other rights, they should come with responsibilities. The very first responsibility is to practice “safe sex” to prevent the chance of becoming pregnant. The second responsibility is to make sure that the

reason for having an abortion is that is not for convenience, social, or economic reasons, but because your health is at risk. There are additional moral, social and economic responsibilities that come with this right. Taxpayers pay roughly 24% of the cost for an abortion. According to [Planned Parenthood](#), abortions cost upward of \$2,000.

Instead of pushing for abortions, women rights groups should be concentrating on other issues of women's health. For example women need to be informed of the health benefits of breast feeding as opposed to feeding their babies formula. Other areas include:

- Overcoming patriarchy
- Opening male based jobs
- Teen pregnancy
- Domestic and social abuse
- Cheating partners
- Social and workplace discrimination and inequities

Abortion is not just a legal issue but also encompasses moral and ethical issues and decisions. The medical and healthcare industry (including educational institutions) has pulled away from the original [Hippocratic Oath](#) and instead replaced it with a revised oath that specifically leaves out mention of pregnancy and abortion. The revised oath specifically states that the physician will NOT play God. It should also be noted that some medical schools use entirely different oaths or none at all.

The reasons given earlier for an abortion are a matter of selfishness and desires. In order to fulfill those desires, pregnant women are tempted (by Satan) to have an abortion. Giving into the temptation to have an abortion is considered a sin ([James 1:15](#)). Additionally the abortion itself is a sin for the woman and for all are involved in carrying out the procedure ([Exodus 20:13](#)).

One of the most precious gifts bestowed on us is the gift of life and that all human life is sacred. We celebrate the sanctity of life from its beginning in the womb to its end in death. You must ask yourself you believe in the value of all human life, no exceptions.