Roe: What We Didn’t Know

In the infamous Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, Justice Harry Blackmun wrote that we simply don’t know when life begins, so he wouldn’t dwell on that point. If theologians and philosophers couldn’t agree, he said, how can anyone know for sure?

Since that time, however, our knowledge of unborn human life and abortion has grown almost as fast as a child developing in the womb. For instance, back in 1973...

- We didn’t know much about what preborn babies look like or how they develop. Today the Internet is full of 3-D images and videos of living embryos and fetuses in the womb.
- We didn’t know babies could be diagnosed and treated while still in the womb.
- We didn’t know that babies undergoing abortion feel pain.
- We didn’t know babies born prematurely could survive and thrive through technology and patient loving care.
- We didn’t know the harm that smoking, substance abuse, and poor nutrition can do to babies in the womb.
- We didn’t know what abortion would do to women. In 1975 researchers began documenting the severe emotional toll abortion is exacting on many women. Since then, many studies have documented a problem called “post-abortion syndrome.”
- We didn’t know that abortion would be linked to breast cancer in women.
- We didn’t know abortion would become such a common procedure, with over one million performed each year.
- We didn’t know nearly half of all abortions every year would be performed on women who’d already had one or more, or that abortion would be used as birth control.
- We didn’t know other nations would follow our lead and also legalize abortion, resulting in the deaths of 50 million or more babies worldwide each year.
- We didn’t know abortion would be used to eliminate children of the “wrong” gender, or to “prevent” minor birth defects.
- We didn’t know the devaluation of human life would lead to human cloning.
- We didn’t know scientists would find a way to generate human life in the laboratory, and experiment using human embryonic cells.
- We didn’t know the legalization of abortion would lead people to believe they should also have a right to die.

What we didn’t know 40 years ago HURTS

We know more now, but what are we doing about it in 2013?

Life Matters Worldwide began nearly 30 years ago. We’re still committed to helping God’s people articulate the biblical pro-life message in word and deed. May we help you with a biblical pro-life ministry that changes lives? Call us, or visit our website today.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES – For more information on prenatal development, visit the Endowment for Human Development at ehd.org. For more on abortion’s effects on women, see www.afterabortion.org. For interesting analyses of abortion statistics, go to www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/index.html.