

## **THE STAGES OF HUMAN LIFE**

There are many terms for the stages of human development: zygote, blastocyst, embryo, fetus, infant, toddler, child, adolescent, youth, minor, adult, senior, and more. These various stages of human life have different needs and characteristics, but all are human.

The zygote is the one cell stage after the sperm has united with the egg. The egg has 23 chromosomes as does the sperm. The zygote has 46, the complete number of human chromosomes.

Life begins at conception, when the sperm fertilizes the egg. The zygote has all the biological data necessary for a human being. No additional data are needed.

Those who favor abortion want to define the beginning of life at a later stage. But life is present when that single cell has the ability to divide and continue to divide, not in a haphazard way, but in a very deliberate way to produce the various organs of the body. It is not a part of the mother.

Since all this is taking place in the mother, unseen by anyone, some might think it is not yet human. To illustrate:, When I push the power button on my computer I see a blank screen for a short time. Then I see a series of images appearing and disappearing, but I still have to wait before I can enter or retrieve any data. At what point can I say that my computer is “on?” Is it on when I push the power button, or when the first image appears on the monitor, or when I am able to enter or retrieve data from the PC? It is on when it has power and starts a series of preset operations without my input.

The zygote is human life in its earliest stage. This is the work of God. Man can observe but not duplicate the development.

We cheapen sex when it is treated as a recreational activity. God has honored mankind by allowing men and women to participate in His creation of new life. This new life is vulnerable and needs nutrition and protection. God planned that the mother would provide that nurture. At about 5 days the blastocyst, consisting of many cells, starts receiving nourishment when it attaches to the placenta.

The “morning after pill” prevents the blastocyst from attaching to the placenta, leaving it to die without nourishment.

We must not deny God the Creator. We are a nation that acknowledges God. In the Declaration of Independence we state we are “one nation under God.” If we deny that, then we will have to deny “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Let us thank God for his gift of life and accept our responsibilities as fathers and mothers to protect and nurture our children.

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