

An Interview with  
**Rev. Dr. Mathew P John**

**What is your stance: pro-life or pro-choice?**

I believe that categorizing people into pro-life or pro-choice factions creates a false dichotomy. Many "pro-life" individuals still value a mother's choice, just as many "pro-choice" individuals acknowledge the value of the unborn child's life. Instead of engaging in ideological warfare, we should focus on addressing the complex and nuanced issue of abortion itself.

**What is your view on abortion?**

I believe life begins at conception, and that a child in the mother's womb is a human being made in the image of God. Abortion extinguishes that image and, therefore, should be discouraged. I am deeply concerned by the growing tendency in our culture to promote abortion as a method of birth control following an unplanned pregnancy.

**Why do you believe life begins at conception?**

When a child is formed in a mother's womb, it can be viewed from different perspectives. From a naturalistic worldview, science often views it as a clump of cells with no identity, and there is no clear consensus on when it becomes a human.

From a legal perspective, once a fetus is formed in a mother's womb, it is considered a separate living human. For example, if someone attacks a pregnant woman and causes a miscarriage, it is charged as a homicide. If the mother also dies in the act, it becomes a double homicide.

The Biblical worldview holds that every human life is a dream of God even before it begins. The prophet Jeremiah declares, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I set you apart" (Jeremiah 1:5). The Psalmist describes how carefully God watches over the growing fetus in a mother's womb: "My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body" (Psalm 139:15-16). In the Gospel, we see that an unborn child is sensitive to spiritual activity, as seen in the story where "when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb" (Luke 1:41).

**Is abortion equivalent to murder?**

Abortion is the act of taking the life of an unborn child. However, there is a distinction between taking a life and committing "murder." For instance, if someone causes involuntary manslaughter in a car accident or kills an intruder in self-defense, the court treats these situations differently from premeditated murder.

No one has the right to judge the heart of a woman who makes the difficult decision to abort her child under the most strenuous circumstances. Only God, who sees the true intentions behind every action, has the authority to judge whether a person's choice constitutes murder.

**Are there legitimate reasons for abortion?**

There are situations where abortion may be considered a legitimate option—for example, when a medical crisis threatens the life of the mother. Some may also argue that pregnancies resulting from traumatic circumstances, such as rape or incest, fall into this category. Ultimately, this decision should be left to the conscience of the pregnant woman.

Once again, I believe that no one has the right to pass moral judgment on a woman who is burdened by such a complex ethical dilemma.

### **What is your stance on (the overturning of) Roe Vs. Wade?**

I view abortion primarily as a moral and theological issue rather than a legal or political one. No court decision can truly resolve a moral problem. Legalizing morality is a complex and often incomplete process, as even the Bible acknowledges (Romans 7:13, 24; 8:3-4; James 2:10; Hebrews 10:1-4).

I believe that a pregnant woman already possesses the right to choose whether to keep or terminate her pregnancy. However, it is equally important to recognize that her unborn child also has the right to life. Therefore, providing legal representation for the unborn in a court of law is a noble and just cause.

God has entrusted His church with the responsibility of defending the voiceless, and the unborn child is certainly one of them. While SCOTUS and POTUS may change their positions and decisions over time, the church's commitment to advocating for the unborn must remain steadfast, regardless of shifting public opinion.

### **Doesn't this view threaten a woman's reproductive rights?**

The term "reproductive rights" is often misleading when used in conjunction with abortion, as it encompasses a broad range of rights that a woman should naturally possess, such as the right to access birth control, make decisions about family planning, and have autonomy over her body.

Under current law, a woman holds the right to make reproductive choices, but this right, like all rights, has limits when it comes to protecting the life of another. The key moral question in the abortion debate is whether the unborn child is considered a distinct human life with its own inherent rights. If we recognize that the unborn child has the right to life, then any decision that threatens that life must be carefully weighed against the right to bodily autonomy.

In this sense, a woman's right to reproduce and make decisions about her body is not diminished; rather, it is understood within the framework of protecting all human life. Just as society places limits on certain freedoms to ensure the well-being of others, reproductive rights should be framed in a way that respects both the woman and the unborn child. The goal is not to strip away reproductive rights, but to ensure that both lives involved are given due consideration and protection.

### **What would you say to a woman who has already undergone an abortion?**

The child you lost is safe in God's hands, and one day you will be reunited with him or her. God knows your heart, and He offers His grace and reconciliation through Christ.

We love you and will never judge you. If you need prayer, counseling, or any other form of support, we are here for you, and all assistance will be provided at no cost. More importantly, we will wrap our arms around you and walk alongside you on this journey.