

Bioethics: *What every Christian needs to know*



David W. Legg October 2009
http://www.legg.uklinux.net/simple_bioethics.html/

Bioethics: *What every Christian needs to know*

- Relevance
- Theology
- Biology
- Terminology
- Examples
- Gospel

No pain?



Theology: Truth and Love

- **1 Cor. 13:6** *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.*
 - **1 Joh. 3:18** *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*
 - **Eph. 4:15** *Instead, speaking the truth in love, ...*
 - **Psa. 26:3** *... for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth.*
 - **Psa. 40:11** *... may your love and your truth always protect me.*
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Theology: Life Before Birth

- **Luke 1:41** *When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, ...*
 - **Defend the defenceless:**
Prov. 31:8,9 *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*
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Theology: Sinful, but human ...

Psalm 51:5 *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*



Theology: Made in the Image of God

Gen. 9:6 *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."*

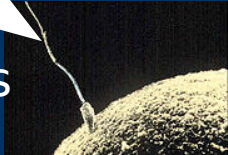
Made in order to image God, e.g:

- rule over creation
 - work and rest
 - marriage (picture of God and his people)
 - Fatherhood
 - etc.
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Embryogenesis



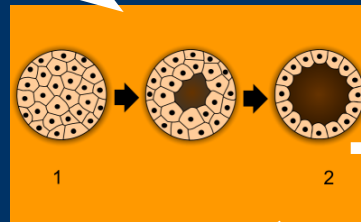
Gametes



Sperm and egg (ovum)

**Fertilisation/
Conception**

Embryo



Implantation



Implanted fetus

Placenta

Womb lining



Designed by God to ...

**be
“disposable”**

Sperm and egg (ovum)
(Gametes)



Placenta



'image' God

Embryo

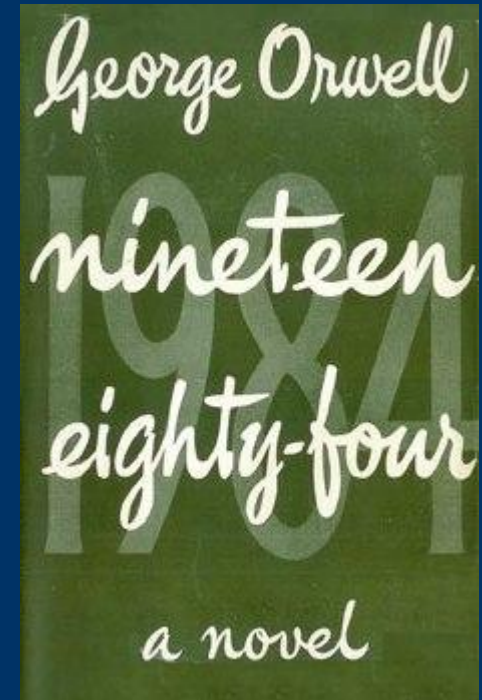


Implanted fetus



Beware: 'Newspeak'

- *'fertilised ovum' (or egg)*
- *'pre-embryo'*
- *'contraceptive'*
- *'emergency contraception'*
- *'post-coital contraception'*
- *'pregnancy'*
- *'termination of pregnancy'*

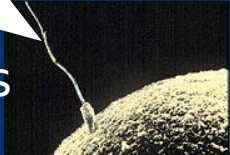




Reminder



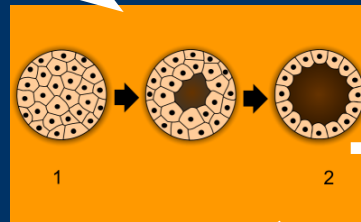
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Unethical Examples

- Abortion
- IVF
- 'Morning-after Pill'
- Combined Oral Contraceptive/
Progestogen-only 'Pill'

What to do about abortion?

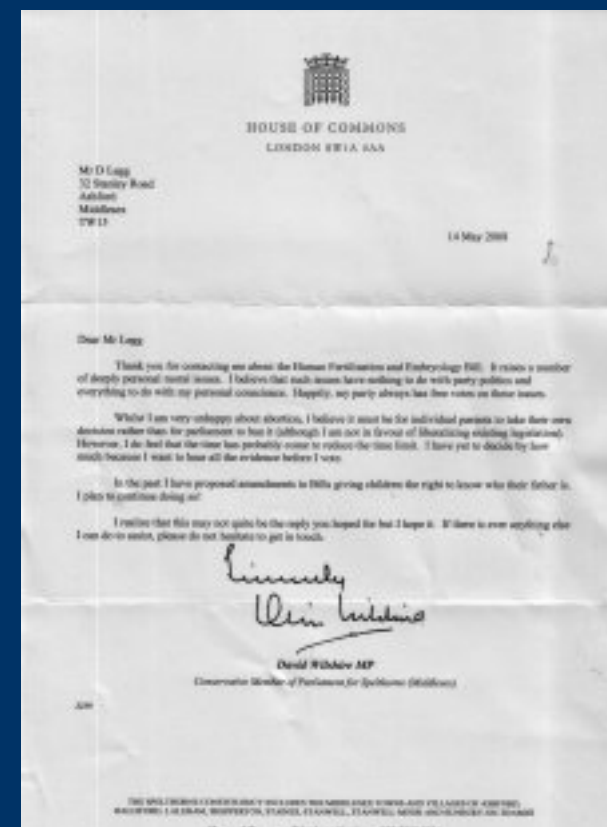
- Support 'Options', LIFE, Care, SPUC, etc.

- Vote Pro Life

David Wilshire MP:

'Whilst I am very unhappy about abortion, I believe it must be for individual parents to take their own decision rather than for parliament to ban it'

– letter to D.W. Legg 2008/05/14



In-Vitro Fertilisation

- Test tube babies.
Frozen embryos destroyed.
- Avoid IVF.
- Seek pro-life alternatives,
such as GIFT or NaProTechnology.

The “Morning-after” Pill

- Don't be deceived (not a contraceptive).
- Avoid getting into the situation.
- Just avoid this abortifacient.

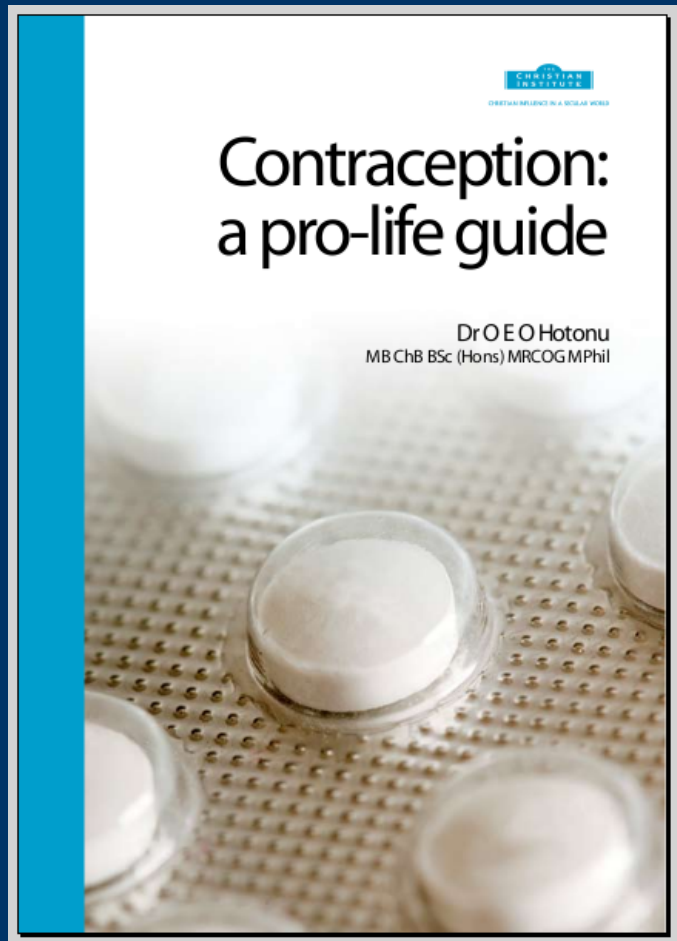


Combined Oral Contraceptive “Pill” and Progestogen-only “Pill”

- Don't be deceived (not only a contraceptive).
- Don't cave in to peer-pressure.
- Find out about ethical alternatives ...



Christian Institute Contraceptives Guide



Pro-life status summary

Condom	✓
Femidom®	✓
Diaphragm, cap, sponge	✓
Spermicide	✓
Progestogen-only pill	✗
Cerazette®	✗
Combined oral contraceptive pill	✗
Tricycling of the combined oral contraceptive pill (Tricycle regimen)	✓
Intrauterine contraceptive device - Copper containing coil	✗
Intrauterine contraceptive device - Mirena® intrauterine system	✗
Implanon®, Norplant	✗
More frequent replacement of the hormone implant	✓
Depo-provera, Noristerat	✗
More frequent injections (Depo-provera)	✓
Natural birth control	✓
Female sterilisation	✓
Male sterilisation (vasectomy)	✓
Buffergel™	NEW
Other male contraception	NEW
Morning-after pill	✗
RU486 (also known as Mifepristone)	✗

Ethical Alternatives

	Alternative
Abortion	Adoption etc.
IVF	eg. GIFT, NaPRO
'Morning-after Pill'	Self control
'The Pill'	See C.I. contraception guide

Lessons to Learn from Examples

- Be suspicious of 'advice'.
 - Always look for the *Pro Life* alternative.
 - Avoid getting into ethically tricky situations in the first place.
 - Always mix love and truth.
 - Love the 'Image of God'.
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