

**Social Justice
Issues Part 1
Feb. 12, 2019**



Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Wheel of Justice



Issue #1: Abortion

Define

Discuss

(what we believe and why)

Share

(small groups)

Conclusion

(justice approach)

Church Teaching on Abortion

The Church has condemned Abortion form the beginning:

“...you shall not murder a child by abortion nor kill that which is born...” ***Didache*** circa 96AD

“God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end”
[CCC 2258]

All people have equal dignity and an equal right to life -
this is the foundation of Christian justice

Human life begins at conception

Christian approach to someone who has an abortion:
non-judgmental, compassionate

In reality, few people question that life begins at conception – from the very start this new being is genetically human.

No doubt abortion involves issues of privacy and choice.

- ✓ The life of a fetus is equally valuable/important as the life of the mother
- ✓ We are no less human as a fetus than at any other stage of development.
- ✓ The value of human life does not depend circumstances surrounding it.

Abortion always violates the principle of human dignity

Abortion – A Few Facts

Percentage of women who gave one or more of the following reasons for having an abortion:

Having a baby would interfere with work, education or ability to care for dependents:	74%
Cannot afford a child now:	73%
Is having relationship problems or does not want to be a single mother:	48%
Has completed childbearing:	40%
Is not ready to have children:	33%
Has experienced rape or incest:	01%

Updated Results (2012) The reasons most frequently cited were:

- Having a child would interfere with a woman's education, work or ability to care for dependents (74%);
- Inability to afford a baby now (73%);
- Not wanting to be a single mother or was having relationship problems (48%).
- Nearly 40% said they'd completed childbearing;
- Almost one-third were not ready to have a child;
- Fewer than 1% said their parents' or partners' desire for them to have an abortion was the most important reason.
- Younger women often reported that they were unprepared for the transition to motherhood, while older women regularly cited their responsibility to dependents.

Conclusions / Question

- The decision to have an abortion is typically motivated by multiple, diverse and interrelated reasons.
- The themes of responsibility to others and resource limitations, such as financial constraints and lack of partner support, recurred throughout the study.

In addition to addressing the legal status of abortion, what else can we address that would reduce the number of abortions?

Social Justice

- Applies the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to the structures, systems, and laws of society in order to guarantee the rights of individuals.
- Ensures that persons have a fair say in social, political, and economical institutions of society.
- The difference between charity and Justice???

charity = **social service** **justice** = **social change**