



Educating

| Communicating

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## Laughing to Hide the Pain

by Jonathan Wilson



Chris Rock



Dave Chappelle

*"Two comedians walk into a bar ..."*  
Oops, let me start that joke over.  
*"Two comedians walk into an abortion clinic ..."*

Huh? Wait. Is this a joke about abortion? Yeah, I guess it is.

In their recent Netflix specials, comics Dave Chappelle and Chris Rock each cover the topic of abortion. While abortion might be an odd subject to get your audience to laugh, both Chappelle and Rock are known for being provocative.

Both comedians state that they hold pro-life and pro-choice views. The reason why they can hold what seems to be two opposite views can be summed up in Chappelle's first

punchline. *"I'm not for abortion,"* he claims, *"but I'm not against it, either. It all depends on who I get pregnant."*

The thinking is that if the baby being born is going to affect my life, then I should have a right to kill it.

*"My money, my choice,"* Dave Chappelle proclaims. *"I've paid for more abortions than any woman in this room,"* Chris Rock boasts.

These punchlines justify, in their minds, their right as men to speak about abortion. However, it's not about who is paying for the abortion, it's about the rights of the unborn.

Their connection as the father, or even the grim view that they are

financing the abortion, does not give them the right to kill their child but assigns to them the responsibility to protect their child's life.

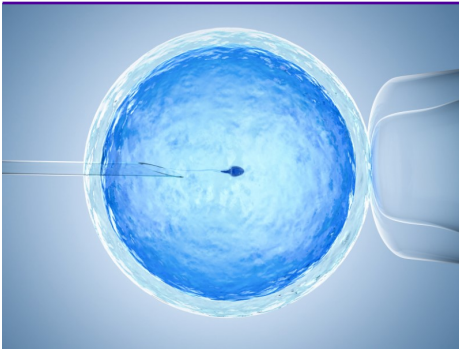
"We laugh to keep from crying" is often said in African-American circles. It's an attitude that allows one to carry on despite past injustices and struggles. Perhaps Chappelle's and Rock's punchlines offer a way to mask the pain and the toll abortion has had on African-American communities.

Laughing is a way to avoid facing the alternative ... the awkward silence that comes from admitting that 900 black babies are killed each day by abortion.

The hardest punchline of all is Chris Rock stating, *"I am absolutely pro-choice, okay? I believe women should have the right to kill babies. Kill them all. But let's not get it twisted. It is killing a baby."*

And there's the rub.

Strip away euphemisms like reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, or even pro-choice, and you are left with one fact. Abortion kills babies. The irony is that it might take a comedian to bring home the point that this is not a laughing matter.



The Alabama State Supreme Court ruled that embryos are children and destroying them opens the door to a wrongful death charge. Critics of the ruling immediately opined that the decision would cripple in-vitro fertilization, leaving Alabama women struggling with infertility issues to seek care elsewhere or to never realize their aspirations of becoming pregnant and being a mother.

In reality, the ruling brings the question of when life begins back to center-stage.

In 2021, it was reported that peer-reviewed journals encompassing the issue believe human life begins with fertilization.

Polling data indicates that 45% view it as a philosophical or religious belief and 46% view it as a biological and scientific fact, whereas 38% of Americans view fertilization as the

starting point of human life.

Further, the report stated that 96% of biologists from 1,058 academic institutions around the world affirmed that life begins at fertilization.

In all of this debate, does a woman, upon learning she is pregnant, ever wonder when life really begins?

In nearly 40 years of providing obstetrical care, I can't recall ever being asked the question, "Dr. Holm, when does life begin?"

Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision, the question of when life began was never really an issue. Everyone intuitively knew it was at the time of fertilization or conception.

The "when does life begin" debate arose when the frequency of abortions began to increase and the abortion industry, in an attempt to assuage the guilt women were expressing at the time of and after an abortion, created this narrative: "You aren't actually killing your baby because life really doesn't begin until X number of weeks. Afterall, it's just a clump of cells."

As early as six weeks, a "flickering" can be seen in the embryo of a pregnant woman at the time of an

ultrasound. This cardiac activity, or heartbeat, affirms the presence of life within the womb. Yet, the gestational age of termination began to evolve beyond 12-14 weeks.

Sadly, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), in 2022, stated, "Until the chambers of the heart have been developed and can be detected via ultrasound (roughly 17-20 weeks of gestation), it is not accurate to characterize the embryo's or fetus's cardiac development as a heartbeat."

Therefore, if there's no heartbeat, there isn't any life. And if there isn't any life, having an abortion cannot result in the taking of an innocent life. Total absolution has been assured.

Despite what the pundits or the media, or the ACOG, or the Hollywood actor with the most Twitter followers would have you believe, the answer as to when life begins is not a theological or philosophical dilemma. It is a simple matter of biology.

The Alabama State Supreme Court correctly affirmed that life begins when a male gamete (sperm cell) encounters a female gamete (egg or ova) and fertilization takes place.

From this union results the formation and development of a baby.

Prolife Inspiration



"I am at once a physician, a citizen, and a woman, and I am not willing to stand aside and allow the concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live."

Mildred Fay Jefferson, M.D.

Fetal Development

Day 1

A unique person is formed!

Day 17

Her blood vessels begin to form.

Day 19

The foundations for her brain, spinal cord, and nervous system are laid.

Day 21

Her heart beats 70 times per minute.

Day 30

Budding arms and legs emerge, and her face begins to appear.

Day 41

Fingers and toes begin to develop.

Week 8

She is the size of her mom's thumb.

Week 9

She can open and close her eyelids.

Week 11

She can smile.

Week 16

She can turn somersaults.

Week 20

She can experience pain.

Week 32

Her pupils respond to light.

Week 40

A precious child is born!

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