

SB8: A Victory for Human Rights

SB8 is one of the most important human rights laws passed in Texas in the past 52 years.

Why do I say this? Whether you agree with that statement or not, I invite you to read why I believe this is a good and just law.

What is SB8?

SB8 (heartbeat bill) is a law that went into effect in Texas on September 1st 2021 prohibiting doctors from performing abortions unless they first search for a fetal heartbeat, which can be detected as early as six weeks into pregnancy. If doctors were to detect a heartbeat, under the legislation, they could not perform an abortion except in a medical emergency. Prior to this law, Texas allowed abortions from conception to 20 weeks, now they only allow abortions from conception to roughly 6 weeks when the heart begins to beat.

Why should every individual concerned with human rights celebrate SB8?

The US Declaration of Independence starts with this principle, “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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.***” [The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights](#) states the same principle in Article 3, “**Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.**”

Both the US Declaration of Independence and the UN Declaration of Human Rights agree that “all men” and “everyone” have the right to life. This is a positive statement that is intended to affirm that **every human being** has dignity, worth, and the right to life.

Throughout world history many tyrannical governments have rejected this basic human right and chosen instead to **judge people** based on their skin color, age, IQ, contribution to society, dependence level, socio-economic and education level. Hitler judged millions of Jews were a drain to society and not eligible for the right to life so he sent them to death camps. Pol Pot judged millions of his people

“not pure” because of their educated, political stance, or the fact that they lived in the city and therefore had them put to death. This is a story that has sadly been repeated many times over.

The point is this, the US Declaration and the UN Declaration on Human Rights seeks to state in clear and absolute terms that each and every human being has the right to life.

Legalized abortion has added an asterisk to the phrase *everyone** and arbitrarily judges those who do and don't qualify for the basic human right of life.

How did we come to this?

The primary question we should be asking is this - **Is an unborn baby a human person?**

If an unborn baby **IS** a human person, then that child deserves the **most basic human right of protection and life**.

If an unborn baby **IS** a human person but one argues the mothers' "rights" trumps the child's, that starts an incredibly dangerous precedent of deciding that some humans have "more" rights than others and that **the powerful can decide to extinguish the life of the weak**. As should be clear, civilized humanity has sought to establish human rights law to protect the young, weak, and innocent for this very reason.

If one suggests that an unborn baby **IS NOT** a human person, we must ask **what defines a human?** In the case of an unborn baby, they have **their own unique DNA and a heartbeat** that starts beating around week 5 or 6. If we start defining a human being as someone who can contribute a certain value to society, then we start an incredibly dangerous precedent and would then by default have to call into question the value and dignity of children, special needs individuals, and the elderly.

If an unborn baby **IS NOT** a human person, we must ask **when does human life start?** Up until September's 1st in Texas, it was legal to have an abortion up until 20 weeks. What changes between 20 weeks and 6 weeks? Extra organs?

More brain cells? Is there a special number of organs that makes a human or a specific number of brain cells that defines a human person?

A final question that should be considered, **what if the pro-abortion position is wrong?** If abortion is truly taking away the most human right of life from a human person, shouldn't we celebrate the protect of those innocent human persons?

I'm going to say something that may at first be offensive but please try to hear me out. There is no such thing as "a women's right" pertaining to extinguishing the life (unique DNA and heart beat) of a baby inside of her. No one would argue that a mother has the "right" to drown her week old baby but for some reason the fable has circulated that eight days prior to that she does have the right to extinguish that life. Perhaps this reasoning has come from the false understanding that a baby in her womb is her body. Let's think about that. The baby is certainly in her womb, but has its own DNA, often a different blood type, it's own brain, heart, lungs, liver, eyes and lips. It is not an extra organ that can be mindlessly removed and thrown away like a second kidney.

Conception is one of the greatest mysteries of being human! Human beings reproduce other human beings inside of themselves! There are no other options for the human race to continue. Think about it, that is really beautiful!

But what about the teenager and the woman who can't afford to raise a child?

Right now there are thousands of people waiting to adopt children who they can love, care for, educate, and raise. How many people are waiting to adopt? The [Adoption Network](#) states that, "*experts estimate it is somewhere between one and two million couples. Every year there are about 1.3 million abortions. Only 4% of women with unwanted pregnancies place their children through adoption.*" Imagine if rather than aborting 1.3 million babies they were placed into loving and supportive homes! How beautiful that would be!

Is allowing the child to mature to full-term over the period of nine months, delivering the baby, and then giving it up for adoption difficult? Most certainly. But protecting human rights is often difficult and requires sacrifice.

There is an area we need to continue developing financial and emotional support systems for within our communities.

So why celebrate SB8?

Because every human person regardless of their age has dignity and value and this new law champions those basic human rights for the unborn person.

A final word to those who have had an abortion

If you have had an abortion, let me say **I'm sorry**. I'm sorry for the fear that drove you to that, the lies that you were told saying it was the only way out, and for the emotional pain you had and may continue to suffer. If you have assisted in an abortion or supported a love one to receive one, I'm sorry.

God wants you to know that **your value in His eyes** is not based on how many good decisions you have made or on how many bad decisions you have made. God loves you because you are a human being and He gave you life. Not only that, He sent His Son Jesus Christ to suffer, die, and rise so that your sin and my sin could be completely wiped away. One of the many words used to describe the gift given to those who confess that they need a Savior and believe that Jesus is that Savior is **forgiveness**. Each and every mistake and sin is forgiven in Christ. If you have had an abortion and wondering if God could ever love you and forgive you, the answer is YES! Look to Jesus and see the extent of His love for you! If you are drowning with the weight and sorrow of a past abortion, you are beckoned to find hope in God's abundant and sufficient grace. Christ died for your shame. Christ died for your regrets. I urge you to receive your forgiveness and your story as an example of God's mercy. Start your road to freedom by sharing about your abortion with your pastor or a trusted friend.