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 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
WHAT IS "LIFE"?
WELCOME TO THE
ABORTION DEBATE!



By Stephen L. Bakke  May 4, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

An old editorial opponent of mine once again jumped on one of my published editorial letters. This one was about the abortion debate, and as people make important decisions, they need the benefit of exhaustive examination of some important issues.

Here's my response:

What is "Life"? Welcome to the Abortion Debate!

Ron Smiley once again takes a swipe at one of my opinions in "Life after birth," May 4. I had previously discussed the abortion debate in "Missing point on abortion debate," April 21. He states unequivocally that the Bible tells us life begins at first breath, and since the Constitution doesn't apply to dead people, neither does it apply to someone not yet born.

Let me untangle that so readers aren't misled. Smiley uses an interpretation of the "Creation" story from Genesis to make his declaration. Actually, virtually all Biblical references to the beginning of life point to individuals being recognized prior to birth.

But let's set the Biblical arguments aside and discuss "life." But Smiley still won't let me do that. He creates a whiplash by redirecting the conversation to healthcare. Please! First things first, let's get back to my original point!

My goal was not to argue about women's rights but to point out that as choices are made, individuals "should have the benefit of an exhaustive examination" of information: the definition of life; the beginning of life; etc.

I invited Smiley to the debate and welcome him on board. He just needs to get back on point.