Abortion; that dreaded word that sparks debates, controversy, yelling matches, and anger on all sides. To me, this word holds as much or more darkness as words such as rape, and murder. To understand why I firmly do not believe in abortion, first one must understand what abortion is. Abortion is the intentional premature ending of a pregnancy whether forced or voluntary. Abortions are most often common during the first 28 weeks of a pregnancy, however there are some abortions, though illegal in the United States, that are designated late-term abortions, or even partial-birth abortions. These are performed during the third trimester, and for partial-birth abortions the baby is partially born, when the abortion is performed.

Many people have come up with the pros and cons of abortion. There have been two terms coined for either side of this debate, pro-life versus pro-choice. In order to be fair, there is a caveat for those on the pro-choice side. Not everyone on the pro-choice side believes in abortions for themselves; however they do believe that all women should have the choice to decide for themselves. My standpoint for the pro-life side all comes from the premise that the fetus/embryo/ baby/child have the inalienable right to life, regardless of a person’s “choice” to end a life intentionally, or prematurely.

This standpoint comes from many hours of contemplation throughout the last five years of my life. Growing up, I always knew that abortion was *wrong*; it was an intentional taking of human life. Though I knew this as a value of life, I had never sought the reasoning behind abortion or the roots of why I believe it to be unethical. As I grew older I was able to consider the reasons why I believe that abortion is unethical and morally wrong as truth. The foundations of my belief system and values come from my faith. I fundamentally believe that one should not kill or murder. If I hold this at an absolute truth, meaning it is a truth that is universal, then not any person should have the ability to allow some people to live and let others’ lives be terminated. If society is allowed to decided who can live and who cannot live, this is just another form of genocide, and the most intense form of discrimination.

One belief that shapes many pro-life supporters’ opinion and my own is that life happens at the moment of conception. In layman’s terms, the baby growing inside a woman, from the moment he or she was conceived means that he or she is by default human in all their nature. At no point during gestation does the embryo, fetus, or infant inside a woman change from human life, it is impossible as well as improbable. Once this concept is fully understood, I question how could a person justify the innocent killing of another human being, especially one who is at the most vulnerable? The logic has never made sense to me.

My standpoint on this extremely important issue has for me been non-negotiable. I cannot understand how a person could have a different view and be an ethically-minded person; however I am aware that many people hold to the pro-choice view and firmly believe it as the only view, or the best one. Because of this, I myself believed for many years that my standpoint was the only right view, not really taking the time to consider the reasons one might receive, or want an abortion. To be honest, it is still hard for me to fully grasp the other side’s view, because I fundamentally believe that abortion is a form of murder, and if murder is fundamentally wrong therefore abortion should be wrong.

There are many reasons why one might want an abortion preformed. The only reason, for the longest time I believed abortion was acceptable was in the case of rape. However after further contemplation logic must come in and override the emotional decision. The old adage of “two wrongs make a right” comes into play. Logically speaking, how can murder be wrong, but abortion right? I discredit the approved notion that abortion is not murder due to the fact that the “thing” (embryo, fetus, baby whatever term one wants to call it) is not living. If it is not living, then removing it from a woman’s uterus is not removing life, instead it is removing an unwanted and undesired object. This conceptual point is a fluffy way of saying that if something that is living (sperm and egg), creates another living thing (embryo), for it is living because the result of the sperm and egg never dies in the process, that the embryo then becomes not living (argument for pro-choice that an embryo or fetus is not alive) because it has no conscious, in order to end the life of this thing (abortion), to only be born a living human being at the end of gestation. The logic is flawed in so many ways.

The emotion versus logic argument. A disadvantage to my standpoint is the concept that an abortion is an emotional one, and logic is not always viewed as more valuable than emotion. Many go through with having an abortion from the sheer shock that they are pregnant and at that time not wanting a baby or a baby was made during a despicable crime. With society telling explicitly that abortion is acceptable; a woman going through this emotional experience can be greatly swayed by what seems like the easiest choice or the one that is most supportive by the current culture. Where I see this as a very logical choice, to kill or not to kill, it is an emotional time for a woman, and one needs to fully understand that first. That being said, I still do not, and never will condone abortion of any kind, however the reasoning for a woman receiving an abortion can be understood.

I believe abortion is an unnecessary evil that places stress and emotional as well as physical pain on the mother and the child, not to mention many others that are affected by the situation. There are many ways that a woman could receive help in order to prevent an abortion. There are clinic that provide free ultrasounds, check-ups, prenatal vitamins, as well as counseling to that mother needing help in a variety of forms. There is always the option of adoption instead of abortion. Adoption allows life and the opportunity of success for both the child and the mother. If we believe as a society that people have the right to hope, then does a child fully dependent on society to help him or her survive deserve that same hope? What makes one child worthless and one worthy, and who is given that power to decide the worthy or the worthless?

As a human services professional, many have to be understanding of those who have had abortions, to help the emotional well-being of those mentally affected by the trauma of an abortion. If a human services professional has a standpoint similar to mine that abortion is fundamentally wrong, they will have to be able to set those beliefs aside and be able to intentionally and thoughtfully help those they are serving.