

Abortion, AA 2-11-97 BIG

The question of the value of mature features for ethics is not the same as the question of the value of the being that has the mature features. The abortionist implies that the value of that being *derives from* its mature features. An analysis of the value involved in making an ethical choice shows that the value of a being cannot derive from its possession of mature features.

The only nonarbitrary standard for ethical values comes from a preexisting orientation to ends, not from the possession of those ends. But it comes from a preexisting orientation that belongs to an entity. The only nonarbitrary standard of ethical values means the only nonarbitrary standard for the value of choices, because that is what ethics governs, namely, choices. The value of a choice is not the same as the value of the beings that make choices or are affected by them. The value of a choice to me is the end it can bring me. But my value to myself is not confined to the end of a particular choice.