

B. G. Miller
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Killing of infants isn't a right parents can exercise

The killing of infants because they are born with physical or mental defects — e.g. Down's Syndrome, spina bifida, or hydrocephalus — is a movement that is gaining momentum in our society and one that, in my opinion, comes awfully close in principle to Hitler's agenda.

Before Hitler killed the Jews, before he killed homosexuals, he killed the mentally retarded. He believed they were people whose lives had no value to society. The practice, whether carried out by Hitler or by physicians who have been given the "permission" of the newborn's parents, violates every religious and moral code of a civilized society.

Suppose, for a moment, that a parent has a 30-year-old son who is a moral degenerate — a murderer, a thief, a reprobate — in all ways, despicable. Does that parent have the right to kill that son? The answer you will probably give is: "No, of course not. That's murder."

So I ask, should a parent have

the right to kill a newborn who never committed any of these heinous crimes? Should the parent own a child in the same way that he owns property? Should he be free to dispose of either? I think not.

Parents have a great deal of responsibility and many rights, but the right to kill another human being is arrogated neither to the parent nor any other human being. That lesson is taught in both the Old and New Testament.

"What about the severely de-

formed newborn's quality of life?" you may ask. The quality of life is a judgment that can be made only by the individual, not by society. We're speaking here of a newborn, whose life is yet to unfold. Let him live his life, then let him decide.

Would you want someone else to decide on the quality of your life? On whether your life had value? I wouldn't.

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