

ABORTION FALLACIES

THE AMAZING DR. RANSOM'S BESTIARY OF ADORABLE FALLACIES

Christian guy: "Why won't the mainstream media cover the growing Planned Parenthood scandal?"

Woman: "There is no scandal except in your non-womb-having mind! Hands off, male!"

Q. *What informal fallacy is on display above?*

A. Her argument is sound only if you assume that abortion is solely a matter of a person who has become pregnant choosing to "complete a biological function" (give birth) or not. And assuming *that* is assuming what we're all arguing about in the first place, making this an aggressive example of **Petitio Principii** (circular reasoning disguised with synonyms). And yes, this response is pretty much a direct quote.

Christian: "Dismembering a baby in the womb in such a way that his or her organs can be sold intact is deeply disturbing and very evil."

Man: "You only hold to that system of ethics because of how you were raised. I bet you were taught science is mostly wrong about evolution and were spanked as a child, weren't you?"

Q. *What informal fallacy is on display above?*

A. This is a textbook example of **Bulverism** (assuming a position is wrong, and then explaining how the person came to hold their opinion, instead of discussing the truth or falsity of their claim).

Christian: "Of the 55 million babies murdered so far by Planned Parenthood, some 70 percent have been children of minority ethnicities. So, love your own kids, love your neighbors' kids, and spread those Planned Parenthood sting videos to change things through the Gospel!"

Other Christian: "Of course I personally believe abortion is a poor option, but I don't want to condemn any of the poor ladies who have been taken advantage of all their lives any further. What if a girl impregnated by a rapist heard you talking about murder?"

Q. *What informal fallacy is on display above?*

A. This is a fallacious **Ad Misericordiam** (Appeal to Pity: does 'pity' require an innocent baby's death?) combined with a millennial fallacy we call **Sensitivity Shamming** (creating a hypothetical audience that strives to make an opponents' claims—even if true—instantly boorish, inappropriate, and repugnant).

*Want to learn more about informal fallacies and the
disease-spreading part they play in cultural debate? Check out
The Amazing Dr. Ransom's Bestiary of Adorable Fallacies,
a new release from Canon Press:*

www.canonpress.com/fallacies

