The word “conception” has historically been identified with the beginning of life. For example, Webster defines "conceive" as “1 a. To become pregnant: b. to cause to begin : originate…” Thus the primary use of the word does not describe a later stage, but the commencement and start of the life of an organism.

A more technical description is seen in the word "fertilization", which Webster says is the “…process of union of two gametes whereby the somatic chromosome number is restored and the development of a new individual is initiated” In short, when what the male contributes joins with the female portion (egg), then a new organism, a new living being begins.

Why is this important? Simply, abortion. Pro-abortion advocates have sought to redefine when life begins in order to justify removal of the unborn baby. Some go so far as to promote partial birth abortion. In such a case the baby clearly resembles a human being. But what about before a recognizable face, arms and legs develop? Is it a human being? Does it only become a living being made in the image of God when it physically develops to the point of being recognizable as a human? Can one abort (by operation or by drugs) a "mass of tissue" or even a "fertilized cell" and be free from sin, since it is "not yet a human being"?
In the Bible, the word "conception" is used and explained as well. Conceive, according to both Vine & Thayer, has the primary definition of “to seize, to take together”, a woman who "conceives". What does the definition indicate? It indicates that at the point of joining together, this is conception. Some later time? When eyes develop? When hands develop? Or when it travels down the fallopian tubes and attaches to the uterus wall? No. Conception occurs at fertilization.

Some assert that the Bible supports the idea that conception occurs "in the womb" some 6-14 days after fertilization. This, it is said, therefore permits drug induced removal of the fertilized cell, which is (in so many words) not yet classified as a human being. Is this true? Does the Bible teach this?

The word "womb" in Luke 2:21 (according to Vine & Thayer) means the belly, the entire physical cavity, the stomach, the womb, the innermost part of man (bowels), etc. It is not specifically speaking of just the uterus, or what we tend to identify as "the womb" today in common speech. The Bible term is more general of that region of the body and includes the fallopian tubes. Thus, abortion advocates can not properly appeal to this verse to sustain their argument that "conception" occurs 6-14 days after fertilization.

To clarify, look at the following chart. Fertilization takes place in the Fallopian tubes, and it takes about 6-14 days for the fertilized egg to reach and attach to the wall of the "womb" or uterus. Thus, some say it is not yet a human being until attachment is accomplished. But their argument does not fit with the historical use and definition of the word "conception" or (more importantly) it is not sustained by the Biblical.
In fact, it is not just a lack of support but an outright contradiction of the Bible to assert that life or personhood begins at attachment to the uterus and not before. Consider again that Luke 2:21 says "conception" begins in the womb or belly area. Luke 1:36 uses the same word for conception and says that "a son" was conceived. Genetically, the fertilized cell is identifiable as male or female at fertilization. So, is "a son" a person, a human being? Yes. Thus, personhood, a new being, begins at conception which begins in this area of the belly, not specifically the uterus, but including the fallopian tubes. Since the word includes this area, but abortionists must exclude this area - there is a clear contradiction in argument. You cannot forbid what God includes and be correct.

Even so, some assert (bold added for emphasis): “Today several views prevail as to when personhood occurs. No one would argue personhood begins before fertilization… ‘Personhood’ is not necessarily the beginning of life but instead can be deferred. Clearly once fertilization takes place, the human sperm and egg cease to exist as distinct entities. A new individual cell now exists called a zygote that has the potential of becoming a human person.”

Notice how personhood is being redefined and the new human being is declassified and depersonalized. Personhood is "deferred". It has "the potential" to become a human person. All this is said with the aim of justifying "morning after pills" and such like. In reality, it results in justifying infanticide.

Are there other questions about the process of life that we have not answered yet? Sure. Does that mean that we can assert nothing or know nothing with certainty about when life begins? Consider a parallel in math. Do I know everything about math? Do I know calculus and trigonometry? Absolutely not. But, does that mean I do not understand one plus one? Or two times two? Some things are much easier than others, especially in light of what the Bible does say and does not say. We do not need to know all things about biological processes to understand that God said conception begins in that area of the body, which includes the fallopian tubes.

Besides, why would we want to avoid having children? Psalm 127:3 says, "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." And if it is wrong to verbally harm another person, is it less serious to physically harm them? James 3:8, "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. 9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God."

Friends and brethren, let us guard against the influence of the world. If we have participated in or supported such things, the past cannot be undone. But gratefully the Lord is patient and abundant in mercy. We can repent of our sins and transgressions; we can humble ourselves before Him and obey the Gospel (Acts 2:38; 8:22). We can avail ourselves of His magnificent grace, so that the terrible stains of sin can be removed, even the stain of murder (1 Tim. 1:16; Acts 2:23, 37-38). Do not delay. Hasten to Him.