

Abortion Rights

- ❖ Altman objects to the equality-based argument (radical feminists) as a legal or a moral argument, while he objects to the privacy/equality-based argument (liberal feminists) just as a moral argument.
- ❖ Altman believes that the liberal feminists' privacy/equality-based argument works best overall, since it is a good legal argument.
- ❖ Questions:
 - How does the privacy-based argument hold up against the radical feminists' objection, which is that it allows for the denial of indigent women to safe abortions?
 - Do radical and liberal feminists indirectly address the fetus status problem by focusing on the women's rights problem?

"Pregnancy Benefits" and "Special Treatment or Equal Treatment?"

- ❖ Altman gives an example that illustrates the differences between the views of the radical feminists and the liberal feminists. Radical feminists would opt for #3, while liberal feminists would probably opt for #4. (p. 216-218)
- ❖ How does Altman get the idea that radical feminists would uphold option #3? Radical feminists trying to even out the inequality between men and women, not take away benefits for those who are injured; also, option #3 would take away benefits for women who are injured.

Conclusions:

- ❖ Liberal feminists still need to answer the radical feminists' objection to the privacy-based argument for abortion rights.
- ❖ Altman's characterization of the radical feminist argument as a legal argument isn't necessarily correct (besides the fact that he makes them sound reactionary and out of touch with reality, but I believe that's a topic to be discussed during the rest of the chapter)
- ❖ Also, Altman should acknowledge that radical feminists are fighting to help women, and not simply to fight patriarchy at all costs. It would give a fuller, more balanced account of the debates between radical and liberal feminists if he did so.