

Against Abortion

Proverbs 31:8-9

Abortion is the single greatest injustice occurring in the world today, and so we should be against it. There's nothing wrong with making the positive case for being pro-life, but you can't be truly for something and not be against that which destroys it. A man who says he loves his wife but won't defend her, doesn't. Similarly, "To fear the Lord is to hate evil" (Prov. 8:13). Abortion destroys innocent human life, and therefore if you are for human life, you must be against abortion.

The Text

King Lemuel's mom gives him royal advice. Don't give your strength to women, nor to that which destroys kings (v3). Don't get drunk and forget the law; save strong drink for the sufferer about to die (vv4-7). And speak up for those who can't speak for themselves, in every case when life is at stake (v8). This means opening your mouth with righteous judgment and advocating for the poor and needy who have no defender (v9). The cases of poor people would not normally come before the king, so his mother is telling him step out, find out, and figure out what needs to be done to save innocent life. The king is not the judge and he's not the priest but he is to do what he can to obey his wise mother and the Lord who sent her. After Solomon was made king and prayed for wisdom, two prostitutes came to him each claiming to be the mother of a living child and not of one that died. His wisdom prevailed to protect the innocent (1 Kgs. 3:16-28). We need the same wisdom and courage.

The Life of a Fetus

Justice Blackmun wrote in the majority opinion of *Roe v. Wade* for the Supreme Court in 1973 that regarding question of when life begins, the court "was not in a position to speculate as to the answer". If you don't know, then you don't invent constitutional rights ("privacy") that may deprive people of life and will certainly sweep away abortion laws in all 50 states. Now we know that a fertilized embryo is alive and has its entire unique DNA at conception. At three weeks the baby's heart beats with its own blood type, and at five weeks there are brain waves. At six weeks fingers are developed, at nine there are fingerprints and we can detect gender, and by ten there's a gall bladder, feel free to applaud. By twelve weeks all the organs are present and the baby can cry. You've never done any a fraction as amazing as grow your body: "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works" (Ps. 139:13-14). Even in 1973 babies could live outside the womb as early as 28 weeks, and now it's 22 weeks. It's basic biology that the fetus (Latin for *baby*) is alive and obviously human. The baby is dependent on the mother and is inside her body (and dependent when outside the womb), but is not the mother's body; he or she is an individual person and therefore has rights. Our laws recognize this in that to murder a pregnant woman is to commit double homicide (cf. Ex. 21:22-23). Scripture refers to babies in the womb as babies: John "the babe leaped in [Elizabeth's] womb" (Lk. 1:42). These are poorest and most vulnerable people who can't speak for themselves, and so we must speak for them.

NOTES:

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Answering Arguments

Once you recognize the obvious and undeniable fact of human life in the womb, there's no valid reason for abortion other than when the mother's life is in mortal danger. In cases of rape, you don't punish the victim (the baby) for the crime of the guilty. You also don't allow the victim (the mother) to become a murderer because she was raped. Many people will follow the biological arguments but remain pro-choice, continually returning to the idea that a woman shouldn't have to suffer raising a child alone—that she has a life, hopes, and dreams that shouldn't be “ruined” by a child. This reveals the real idol. People justify taking the life of another rather than inconvenience and impact their own. This sort of explicit and murderous selfishness has become more common with organizations like *Shout Your Abortion*. If a man and woman choose to have sex, they ought to be ready to deal with the consequences. He should have to pay child support if they're not married, and she should count the cost of pregnancy and birth. If they're not ready but choose to have sex anyway and get pregnant, they should turn to crisis pregnancy centers and other ministries eager to help at every stage. We have resources in place that are not getting used while abortions happen every 13 minutes of the business day in King County. It's never justifiable to take an innocent life, but idols of self are bloodthirsty and demand sacrifice. The taking of human life on the 60-million-person scale we have in America requires devaluing those lives. In Nazi Germany they referred to inferior people as *lebensunwerten lebens*, “life unworthy of life.” This included Jews, Poles and other inferior races, but also those with disabilities and serious medical problems. Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, embraced eugenics and targeted blacks in America who along with other minorities account for half of all abortions. But we have no authority to say any person is unworthy of life. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life who gave Himself for our sins. He is ultimately the only answer.

A Culture of Life

Every human being bears the image of God and therefore must be respected and protected (Gen. 9:6). This is Sanctity of Life Sunday, which emphasizes the inviolability of human life. Since “sanctity” has connotations of holiness, it's better to speak of the dignity of human life. We want a culture of life in the church that makes abortion unthinkable. It's not true that all women are equally abortion-vulnerable. Believing this makes women (and men) vulnerable and a culture of life impossible. We want to raise sons to be strong in their youth and daughters “like corner pillars cut for the structure of a palace” (Ps. 144:12). These are living stones in the church who don't buy the lies of the world. Abortion is driven by lousy sex in uncommitted and broken relationships, and so fathers and mothers must lovingly disciple their children. The family is the ministry of health, education, and welfare, and fathers are tasked to provide. It starts here, but we also must love those who fall into sexual sin and face crisis pregnancy. Pregnancy out of wedlock is the result of sin, but it's not sin, so the church is *the* safe place for love, refuge, and support of every kind. We honor pregnant women who have been given by God one of the greatest honors. We are thankful to support Care Net of Puget Sound and for the incremental advances against abortion. Pray for more.

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