

Why I Am Pro-Life¹

Martin Luther Said:

If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battlefield besides, is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.

Luther was confronting a faulty system of salvation by works when he penned these words but the truth still resides today. Today in my opinion the battle is raging fiercest over the preservation of a million and a half babies a year that are being killed. If I did not speak out on this issue I would not be a true soldier of Christ. I am going to present the case for Pro-life and refute the case for Pro-choice. Please evaluate the evidence before making your decision where you stand. William Wilberforce, speaking on the issue of slavery said:

Never, never will we desist till we...extinguish every trace of this bloody traffic [slavery], of which our posterity, looking back to the history of those enlightened times, will scarce believe that it has been suffered to exist so long a disgrace and dishonor to this country.

I hope to show that the same issues are at stake in the abortion issue as in the slavery issue - human beings being brutally treated because they were seen as less than human.

Psalms 139:13-14 says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Here we see the classic Christian position of the sanctity of human life. The question of pro-choice vs. pro-life boils down to the question, "Am I murdering a human being when I have an abortion?" If the fetus is only a blob of tissue that is only potentially a human being then the woman certainly has the right to choose whether to be inconvenienced by it, but if the fetus is a living human being she is protected by the laws of our land that state we have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The question is not subjective; it is objective. The fetus is either a live person or it is not - what I think doesn't change the truth. The real question is "When does life begin?"

¹I am very much indebted to Francis Beckwith, *Politically Correct Death* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1993).

Four weeks after conception there is a heartbeat. At 43 days the baby has detectable brain waves and is moving around. At nine weeks the baby has fingerprints, sexual organs and functioning kidneys. All the organs are functioning and the baby can cry at 12 weeks. In adults, we refer to vital signs as the heartbeat and brain waves. When both the brain waves and heart beat stop for a period of time the person is considered legally dead. Allow me to quote R.C. Sproul:

We use this expression: 'If it looks like a duck and it walks like a duck, it probably is a duck.' In the case of human fetus, we are definitely not talking about ducks. The fetus looks like a living human person. It acts like a human person. The embryo has the genetic structure of a human person. It has the vital signs of a living human person. The fetus has sexuality and movement. With this accumulative evidence from natural science, it would seemingly require powerful evidence to the contrary to conclude that a prenatal baby is not a living human person.²

All evidence points toward the fact that a fetus is a living human being before most people find out they are pregnant. If the fetus is a baby and is alive then it is murder to abort her. Even if some still say there is some doubt to whether the baby is alive the benefit of the doubt should go towards the baby because his or her life is at stake. Ronald Reagan said:

If we don't know, then shouldn't we morally opt on the side that is life? If you came upon an immobile body and you yourself could not determine whether it was dead or alive, I think that you would decide to consider it alive until someone could prove it was dead. You wouldn't get a shovel and start covering it up. And I think we should do the same thing with regard to abortion.

A fundamental concern of the government is to protect the weak against the strong. It is the government's duty to protect the unborn babies from their mothers who want to kill them. I know I am using harsh words. I also know that most women who get abortions don't realize what they are doing. But ignorance is not an excuse. Allow me to examine the Pro-choice arguments.

Argument #1 "A woman has a right to her own body." The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Pro-choice partially based on an interpretation of a person's right to privacy. Allow me to give an illustration that shows if the fetus is alive, then the baby's right to life supersedes the woman's right to privacy. A celebrity has a right to privacy just like everyone else. It must be a tremendous annoyance for them when people bother them when they are out in public. But the celebrity certainly doesn't have the right to kill the nuisance bothering him or her. The right to life over-rides the right to privacy. The woman has a right to her own body but the baby is completely separate from her body - she is just encased within the mother's body. The woman's right to convenience does not supersede the baby's right to life.

²R.C. Sproul, *Abortion: A Rational Look At An Emotional Issue* (Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1990), p.62.

Argument #2 "If abortion is outlawed women will go back to the coat-hanger days and hurt themselves by getting illegal abortions." First of all, the fact that people will break the law does not mean it is a bad law. People steal every day but this does not mean we should make theft legal. Second, more women are killed from abortions now than they were before abortions were legal because it is not a "safe" practice like the Pro-choice people would have you to believe. Abortions have severe side-effects. Physical and psychological trauma plagues a large percentage of the women who have abortions, for the rest of their lives. Third, what about the million and a half babies who don't have any say in the matter?

Argument #3 "Men shouldn't speak on abortion because it is a women's issue." First, this is female chauvinism. Second, eight out of nine of the Supreme Court justices would then be disqualified to judge on the issue - and what about Jesus? Would he also be disqualified? Third, half the babies aborted are male.

Now I must say that abortion is not the unpardonable sin. I do not mean to bring condemnation on the heads of those who have already had abortions. Jesus will forgive and forget your sin if you repent. I just have to speak out for the babies. It must also be said that I am not talking about making all abortions illegal. I would certainly say that if a woman's life is in danger then abortion is self-defense, not murder, and therefore should be protected by law. Even though I don't believe it is a good enough reason to kill an innocent baby, I would even be willing to allow the exceptions for rape and incest if that were necessary for a law to get passed; I would allow this because I know that only a small fraction of abortions are done for this reason and therefore we would still be saving almost one and a half million babies a year. 99% of all abortions are done because it is an inconvenience to the mother - it is a form of birth control.

So what should we do? First we need a different strategy than what has been used in the past. Bombing abortion clinics and blocking people trying to get abortions has done more harm than good in my opinion. I respect these people because they are doing it out of love (the blockaders, not the bombers), but it is misguided love. Protests, pickets, and life-chains have not accomplished much either. The most important thing you can do is pray. I believe that unless there is a revival in our country and people get back to a personal, dynamic relationship with God our country is doomed. Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." Prayer can change this. We should also lovingly tell people our position on this issue. We should also provide alternatives such as Pregnancy Resource Center and other organizations are doing.

Once a man ceases to recognize the infinite value of the human soul...then all he can recognize is that man is something to be used. But then he will also have to go further and recognize that some men can no longer be utilized and he arrives at the concept that there are some lives that have no value at all (Helmut Thielicke).

I hope we have not reached this point. These are the reasons I am Pro-life.