

Cindy and Eloise

Thankfully, there are numerous ways to be [authentically pro-life](#). Some more strategic than others. As a sidewalk counselor I had the privilege of meeting a handful of women who for the better part of a decade stood vigil on Christ's behalf. A demanding post, For years they prayed and pleaded, loved and wept. Often alone. Once hoping to rally some troops, a then middle aged mom named Cindy visited 74 of the leading churches in town. She merely asked that a line or two be added to their Sunday bulletin inviting those interested to join them at the abortion clinic on an upcoming Saturday for prayer and show of support. **She sadly reported 70 declined even such an infinitesimal effort as a small mention in a single weeks church bulletin.**

The senior pastor of one of the larger "spirit filled" churches invited Cindy into his office. He kindly inquired why she was making abortion such a big deal? He reasoned, "Abortion is no different than any other sin. The women can be forgiven and the babies all go to Heaven." As my pro-life mentor, I had never witnessed Cindy without lovingly wise, and when necessary, firm words for any of the many hundreds of mothers and fathers, grandparents and even security guards as they entered and exited the abortion clinic. Yet in the pastor's office she recalled standing in stunned silence. Years later she still regretted having no response.

As she lamented over her experience I knew exactly what should have been said. She should have agreed that thankfully all [children do go to Heaven](#). She should have confirmed that post abortive women can be forgiven, though not [half so lightly](#) as [Churchianity](#) imagines. She should have denounced the lie that "abortion was no different than any other sin." Then, fixing the pastor with Cindy's own brand of friendly but firm gaze she should have replied, "For you. For you and your entire church. For the sake of hundreds of thousands of good church attending Christians in Fresno who's ignorance and apathy are pushing God's patience to the limit:

- "Don't you realize how patient he is being with you? Or don't you care? Can't you see that he has been waiting all this time without punishing you, to give you time to turn from your sin? His kindness is meant to lead you to repentance." Romans 2:4 Living Bible

What makes this example all the more telling is that this very church had once been the hub for Operation Rescue rallies in that same city. Also, this same pastor was well and rightly recognized throughout the city, and his denomination, for his extreme sensitivity

to people and the Lord. Yet as is so commonly the case, abortion's impact on the church was completely off the radar.

And what of his assertion that post abortive women can simply be forgiven?

I had the privilege of meeting Eloise within that same cadre of three faithful sidewalk counselors. All of which just happened to be Protestant charismatic moms. A larger than average hispanic grandma in her late 50's, Eloise had a unique and powerful style. She loved and wept. Scores of times I watched as she reasoned and pled with girls and women entering the abortuary. Many of whom were Hispanic like she herself. Even after they went in, she stood alone on somewhat swollen feet before the black walls of one way plate glass. Begging as tears rolled down her face she would cry, "Mija (beloved girl or daughter) don't do this. God gave you a precious gift. You should love and protect it. I know you can hear me. Change your mind and come out or you'll regret it the rest of your life. We can help you. Please... Please don't let them kill your beautify baby. "

Knowing of what she spoke, she meant every loving word. Decades before, while caring for several children of her own, she found herself in poverty and pregnant again. Her harrowing choice to abort left a lifetime wound. Healed through equivalently deep and abiding [repentance](#), she literally oozed Christ's [love](#) and [mercy](#) as a sign of warning and reproof.

Mankind's pinnacle sin of abortion is quantum in a variety of ways. For example, it's hardly just like any other sin. Even so, as with any other sin, it does require the event and process of genuine repentance. Like faith itself, honest and heartfelt [repentance](#) encompasses our entire [mind, heart and will](#) as required by 2 Chronicles 7:14's [perfect formula for repentance](#).

The New Testament reiterates this principle in multiple ways. Putting the penance in [repentance](#), Scripture reinforces the need for a change of both [attitude](#) and [action](#) as exemplified in the old adage, "When is a thief not a thief?" The Bible's answer is not when someone merely confesses. Not even when a thief stops stealing. That's just an out of work thief. But rather:

- "If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need." Ephesians 4:28 New Living Translation

Herein lies one of several grave errors in [modern Christianity's](#) understanding of Biblical [repentance](#). All too often members are bid to simply [believe](#) in the [cross of Christ](#), with little or no discussion as to His command we daily shoulder our own.

In this regard, I've never personally witnessed a greater example of genuine repentance than Eloise. It was around Mother's Day she unknowingly left her greatest impression. Attending a church service at a ministry where I served as administrator, I inwardly groaned as an otherwise unusually gifted and perceptive pastor rolled out yet another flag waving motherhood sermon. Even going so far as to invite a supposed charismatic prophetess to provide positive and personalized "words from the Lord" for mothers in attendance. On this auspicious Sunday, once again there was no discernment or caution about abortion's attack on or by mothers. Literally claiming to speak on behalf of the same Holy Spirit who's work in the womb had been ripped apart over a billion times, there was no brokenness much less rebuke. No prayer or prodding for **God fearing** mothers to rise up and become **authentically pro-life**. Of course this was only one of hundreds of thousands of similar Mother's Day sermons preached around the world that day. And millions since **Roe vs. Wade**.

When next I saw Eloise it was at the abortuary. In usual form she wept through and against it's darkened glass walls. Reminiscent of the tears of another woman millennia ago:

- "Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look! See this woman kneeling here! When I entered your home, you didn't bother to offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You refused me the customary kiss of greeting, but she has kissed my feet again and again from the time I first came in. You neglected the usual courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has covered my feet with rare perfume. Therefore her sins—and they are many—are forgiven, for she loved me much; but one who is forgiven little, shows little love." And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:44-48 Living Bible

It's been my honor to have solemnly watched Eloise's weeping as a "**mother in Israel**." Moved by love, she spiritually anointed with her tears untold numbers of unseen pairs of tiny feet belonging to Christ's "least brothers." Priceless and rare, her response is a pattern of the real and appropriate fruit of **brokenness** and **repentance**. One far removed from the common habit of confusing **presumption for faith**. Unlike tens of millions of post abortive Christian mothers and grandmothers, she exercised her right to choose by standing alone if need be before abortion's continued onslaught. All the while professing her faith by confessing her sin and thus demonstrating her genuine forgiveness and love.

She is also reminiscent of another Mary. The brother of Lazarus. Consciously or not, by recognizing Jesus' complete identification with the needy and perishing "she has chosen the better part."

Today there are many opportunities for individuals, churches and organizations to have a pro-life impact on people within their communities. For some simple ideas click the link: [Change](#).

For an overview of being authentically pro-life click the link: [Authentically Pro-Life](#).

For an in depth report on serious church and denominational objectives and strategies to enable the church to have a comprehensive pro-life, pro-family and pro-mission strategy click the link [Objectives](#)