



God - Abortion

One Pastor's Pro-Life Journey

The world has never seen anything like the phenomena of abortion. Still, unless you're knowledge of the subject surpasses ninety-nine out of a hundred Americans, what you don't know about abortion could fill a bookshelf.

Abortion, particularly in the free world, is the uncanny yet unrelenting killer ever to appear in the annals of human history. Crossing every barrier with ease, it ravages every people group regardless of gender, creed or color. Abortion, in both surgical and contraceptive forms, affects every aspect of society while escaping appropriate notice. Its institutionalization has forever changed every institution in the modern world while altering even our most honored professions.

From the sacred to the secular abortion cuts a silent yet bloody path. From active promotion to quiet acquiescence it stains every strata of civilization, rendering and revealing us as anything but civilized. Abortion's facets are as fascinating as they are deadly. For example, it's ability to turn to enemies the very persons whom for millennia, society and in particular it's weakest members, have trusted and turn to for safety and security. From among today's mothers and fathers, judges and clergy, doctors and politicians have come a multitude of millions preying upon our most innocent offspring. Many of those who throughout the ages once stood as the most vigilant of guardians now directly cannibalization of our posterity or turn a deaf ear to their silent screams.

History will no doubt paint our generation red.

Abortions exponential advance, encircling the globe, is unfortunately now far too big to be stopped by any single segment of society. What was unthinkable only a few decades ago is brandished as an entrenched right. For centuries politicians would kiss babies to get elected. Today, they more often than not pledge to keep their killing legal. Further making abortion's victory complete is how few fault them. Billions rather applaud them and of those who disagree too few can do so with the integrity of a life spent resisting this unprecedented slaughter.

Abortion's effects are universally felt yet castigated as myth. When murdering babes abortion claims they don't exist. When wounding women it claims to liberate them. The politician and physician abortion turns into killers it honors as champions of human rights. The clergy and laity abortion cowers into ignorance and/or silence and submission it proclaims leaders of compassion.

I know. I was one.

As an ordained minister for nearly 20 years I've only actively been pro-life for a handful. Like most of my peers I had good reason to be largely ignorant of the implications of abortion in America . I was busy. Very busy. Very busy doing important things for the good of others. Like many "I couldn't see the forest for the trees". In fact, I was so busy I hardly noticed the raging fire encircling and burning my direction.

As the former executive director for Right to Life of Central California Fresno/Madera I learned and helped others learn the art of global activism by working locally. I learned to look carefully at issues from the economy to social security, from disintegrating family values to teen sexuality and reduce these problems to their common denominators. From past and present mistakes to those looming in the near future, a major tap root of our worsening condition is without doubt abortion and its ramifications.

As director I was privileged to speak to audiences numbering in the tens of thousands, individuals by the hundreds and fellow ministers by the dozens. In each case I've noticed a familiar almost universal response of unbelief or practical apathy when it comes to the subject of even surgical abortion. As for contraceptive abortion, all but a tithe of even the most ardent pro-life proponents and/or agencies remain largely silent.

Having been actively pro-life for less than a decade I understand this situation firsthand. Far more than half my Christian adult life I was classically ignorant, and perhaps a little willfully so, of the extent and importance of the

issue of even surgical abortion.

In time, my eyes were opened to the impossible statistics of this largely unseen global Holocaust. This was due in part to my having taken an extended sabbatical to research the state of the Western Church . During this time, I discovered that surgical abortion had claimed 1 and 4 of America 's children for then 25 years! I was undone. As a minister and student of the scriptures I began working through the staggering implications of the most blessed, prosperous and powerful Christian nation in human history to be practicing such barbarity.

It was at this point I asked God to show me the scriptural references and inferences relevant to abortion. From that day to this He has done so well over a hundred times. The overwhelming quantity of scriptures continue to persuade me to the quality of danger abortion poses, not only to billions of babies killed globally but society in general, and the Church in particular, for participating in and/or allowing such an unequalled slaughter.

I became a sidewalk counselor, and spent every Saturday from 7 AM to noon for two years witnessing abortion first hand. Over the course of more than 100 days, 1 to 3 of us pleaded with on average 25 mothers, many in their teens, to protect the precious gift God had given them and not let anyone harm it. We offered literature, alternatives and even adoption yet sadly persuaded less than 1 a day to choose life.

During these years I came to understand that as important as sidewalk counseling is, the simple fact that it is too little too late could not be ignored. Joining the prayers of tens of thousands, I pressed God as to why in a county with the population over a million, with more than 200,000 professing Christians attending 500 local churches shepherded by 1,500 pastors and priests there had been only one minister and a handful of laity to dissuade these mostly teen mothers to spare their children.

Little did I imagine that God wanted to explain the real reason for the failure of the pro-life movement far more than I wanted to hear His explanation.

Jesus once told his disciples he had more to tell them than they were ready to understand. I found this to be universally true, but nowhere more so than when dealing with the gospel of life and issues of abortion. As for me, even after having been in lay ministry for over 20 years, a minister for over a decade and two years as a sidewalk counselor I had much to learn.

About this time PBS had a program called, "the Day the Universe Changed". It was a wonderful series about technologies advancements through

discoveries that step-by-step have brought us the incredible lifestyle we now enjoy in first world nations. The day I learned about abortion the universe did change for me. Coming to understand the truth of contraceptive abortion the change was even more dramatic. As staggered as I was years before to learn we were surgically aborting 4,500 or more U.S. pregnancies daily, this paled in comparison to my learning that abortifacient contraceptives were likely killing that many or far more and not in a clinic in the poor section of town, but in our homes, businesses and even churches!

Doubling my distress was the fact that after more than 25 years of marriage my wife and I were raising only two children. Like so many others, feeling it was, "a Christian couples right to choose" we had used various forms of contraception, including abortifacients. Knowing the average family size for 59 out of 60 centuries had been 10 or more, I was forced to admit that I, a Protestant evangelical minister and pro-life sidewalk counselor likely had contraceptively aborted members of my family. In fact, it's quite possible my wife and I have a bigger family in heaven that we do on the earth.

Unfortunately we are not alone. When it comes to the use of abortifacient's as contraceptives easily half or more of American couples, Christian or not, are guilty of their use.

For those unfamiliar with abortifacient contraceptives, as I was even as a minister and pro-life sidewalk counselor having used them, here is a brief overview. This phrase refers to the ability of many contraceptives to prevent implantation of a fertilized egg into the lining of the uterus of its mother. Some of the contraceptive methods considered abortifacients that can cause "micro abortions" include:

All of the 50 or more forms of birth control pills
IUD's
Depo-Provera
Norplant
The Ring
The Patch
The Lunel Shot

While some of these methods can impede conception before fertilization, all will also cause a fertilized egg from implanting in the womb of its mother and thereby abort the pregnancy within the first week following conception. Given there are more than 12 million women in the U.S. on one of these forms of potentially lethal forms of birth control the contraceptive abortion death toll falls between 5,000 and 60,000 daily in America alone...

For more information on this form of abortion please see the many articles on my [contraceptive abortion page](#).

In scripture God reveals over and over his love for families and their importance to Him. One of the clearest is found in 1Timothy 5:8, "but if anyone does not provide for his own and especially for those of his household He has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever". Scriptures like this beg the question, are tens of millions of Christian couples, who use abortifacients, providing for or aborting as many as half their children? If so, by contraceptively aborting millions of family members, albeit usually in ignorance, are we denying the faith and worse than unbelievers?

Before continuing, let me assure you that the message of Truth Talks is one of hope and healing. As an organization our goal is to educate the public and protect the sanctity of humanity at every stage of life. It is never our intent or place to condemn anyone. Personally, guilty of having used abortifacients prior to becoming a director at Truth Talks, I would be the last person to condemn the post abortive. Even so, for hope and healing to take root and flourish, education and honesty must constantly tend the soil.

Let me also say that Truth Talks is not primarily a religious group. As an educational nonprofit organization, our mission is completely inclusive without excluding anyone. We believe this to be the wisest course of action given the common acceptance of abortion in our culture and its ramifications for us all. In the end, we will stand or fall together, regardless of color, creed, age or gender.

Having said that, it should be clear that culture is a matter of morality, and undeniably Western culture is a product of the Judeo-Christian ethic. Much that we hold dear as well as the truths that support America are faith based. This being true, having become so disoriented that in apathy or in ignorance we are aborting at least one-half of our posterity, I believe we must retrace our steps to find our way.

This will be one more importance as bio technologies continue to emerge. The question, "What Is Human" will be forwarded time and time again until it becomes perhaps the single most important question humanity has ever needed to answer. Science will certainly raise this question but will be unable to single-handedly provide the answer. Religion, morality and ethics must also be consulted that the whole truth might be discovered.

It's already a matter of life and death on a planetary scale.

In the service of Life,

Robert Pennington

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