

You Are Not Pro-Life

By Dan Jensen (2024)

(In order to fully benefit from this essay, I recommend reading through my “works for beginners” first. They can be found on my website.)

There is a lot of confusion today in our culture, both broadly speaking and within the true church as well, over what it actually means to be pro-life. More and more people are taking the position that they can be “pro-life” personally, but still say that the government should not tell women they cannot have an abortion. This position has long been held by many Catholics in our country. But, more and more professing Conservative Evangelicals are deluding themselves into thinking that they can take this position and still be a true follower of Christ. And very, very few true orthodox churches in our land have the stomach to discipline those adopting this view among us. And in case anyone says that I am just picking on women here, I would say that the church has every bit as much of a duty, if not more so, to discipline men who embrace this blatant heresy.

The Bible condemns murder from beginning to end. To defend murder on any level is thus heresy. This is not complicated folks. I am not saying that every woman who has an abortion is a murderer. Far from it. Most were confused and have been lied to over and over again. But, the abortion doctors are murderers. I care very little about how politically incorrect such a statement is considered by most Americans today. It is cold hard fact. And abortion doctors should be prosecuted as such. With that made clear, we often only have so much control over what the government does. What we do have control over in the church is not allowing heresy to infect us. The church in America today has almost completely shirked its duty on this front, and not just in regard to abortion. The issue with abortion though, is becoming out of control.

I can't tell you how many times I have heard a person say something along the lines of, "I am personally very against abortion. I am a Christian and so I don't believe in abortion. I would never myself get an abortion. So I'm pro-life. But, I do believe that each woman should have the right to make their own choice on this issue. I don't like the government being in our business." I hate to break it to those who adopt this sentiment, but this is NOT the pro-life position. It is just a very conservative iteration of the pro-choice position. In fact, when I was growing up it was probably the predominant view of most who took the pro-choice position. Most who took this position were Catholic or Liberal Protestant and understood this, and understood that they were pro-choice. They would have left out the statement about being pro-life. Other than that, they could have said the above statement word for word and been very comfortable with it. But, today we have millions of people who think they are pro-life along the lines of the sentiment above, including legions of people within otherwise godly and orthodox churches.

If you embrace the above sentiment, you are neither pro-life nor orthodox. You are advocating heresy. If you are a true follower of Jesus, repent immediately for this heinous sin. You may argue that certainly the government cannot legislate all immorality. You may argue that I'm hypocritical for believing so strongly in freedom of religion and freedom of speech when I so strenuously argue against heresy all throughout my writings. None of this follows. It is 110% true that governments cannot be God. They were never designed to be such. Even the most rigid theocratic governments in history, whether of true religion or otherwise, have had to make compromises and concessions. With that readily admitted, every single government in human history after the fall has been duty bound by God to legislate murder. We all understand this. Again, stop trying to make this issue more complicated than it is. If the government can allow murder, it has ceased to do its job in one of the most fundamental areas of its duties.

The problem with those who take the sentiment described at the beginning of this page, is that they don't actually believe that abortion is murder. Most simply want to call themselves "pro-life" on some level so that they can make their parents happy, or not

get into too much hot water at their churches. Again though, this is not the pro-life position. The pro-life position is that human life begins at the moment of conception and that ALL human life must be protected by the government. Yes, most (though certainly not all) believe in certain very rare exceptions, myself very much included. But, there has to be ethical exceptions to almost every solitary ethical principle in existence. That is unfortunately just human life. War is a perfect example. Ethical governments must do all in their power to keep the death toll on the enemy to the bare minimum. This is because taking the life of another human is serious beyond all description. Yet, in order to defend one's country, sometimes war is necessary. That does not mean that a nation can then say that it now has the right to kill the citizens of the enemy indiscriminately. We all understand this. The same is true with abortion. Yes, exceptions must be recognized in my strong estimation. That in no way changes the fact that abortions across the board must be avoided as much as possible.

The pro-choice movement can point to the hard cases all they want. Yes, we need to do better about these. More discussion and better legislation is required on this front. But, that does not mean that we must go back to Roe. I recently heard a woman talking about how she had a failed pregnancy and an abortion doctor helped her to abort the pregnancy so that she did not have to undergo another painful miscarriage. Then she said, "And now you people want to put this doctor, who helped me in my time of need, in jail!" This utterly misses the point. We do not want to put that doctor in jail for providing you with legitimate medical help after your baby had unfortunately already passed away. We want to put this doctor in jail for murdering countless live babies. Those are not the same thing and to conflate them is ethical absurdity in the extreme. I understand that the technical usage of the term "abortion" refers to aborting any pregnancy. So, I understand that it often has a broader usage than just the killing of the baby. It refers to the termination of any pregnancy. But, we all know that the vast majority of abortions are the termination of a live baby. In most cases, a perfectly healthy one. And we all know that this is how we are using the term in the pro-life movement. You can play games all you want, but you are not fooling anyone who is knowledgeable on this topic.