

Are you truly Pro-Life? Really??

by

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“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

John 10:10

I have a question for you. What is the first thought that comes to your mind when you hear the term “pro-life”? Do you think of the fight to protect unborn babies? Do you think of politics? Do you think of people protesting, yelling, and screaming? What do you picture when you hear that term? Before I continue on, I do want to make some things very clear.

I believe in the sanctity of human life. I believe that all life begins at conception. I believe the Scriptures back up this stance. I believe that abortion is wrong, yet I cannot place judgment on any woman who has received one. I am pro-life, but in more ways than just as it applies to the protection of the unborn. I am here to say that if you think that being pro-life only covers life before birth, then you are totally, one hundred percent, missing the point.

I am not a scientist or a doctor. I cannot begin to argue with you just when someone is “alive”, but I do know this: God is pro-life. He cares about all facets of life from the time we are conceived inside of our mothers to when we take our last breath in this world. I truly believe that as Christians, we cannot call ourselves pro-life and only focus and care about the

protection of the unborn. My words are not meant to offend, but to get you to think. Humor me for a moment and hear me out. What has brought me to this point? How I am drawing such a conclusion? It is rather simple.

I have always been taught that abortion was wrong. I have, in the past, stood on the side of the road holding signs opposing abortion on “Sanctity of Life” Sunday. I have voted for political candidates who claimed to be pro-life. I have always believed that life began at conception. This point was made even clearer to me when Jamie and I had two stillborn children. Both died at 16 weeks into Jamie’s pregnancy and, after she delivered them, we both held them in our hands. I saw their fingers. I counted their toes. I cried as we buried both of our sons (Daniel and Benjamin), so I am pro-life. Yet, a few years ago, I began to ask the hard questions. What about life after a baby has been born? What about their quality of life after we have protected them in the womb? Isn’t being pro-life more than protecting the unborn? Shouldn’t we care about what happens after someone is born?

Jesus stated in the Book of John that He came that we would have “life and have it to the full.” That means we need to care about how people live. That means we need to care if they don’t have enough to eat or have safe drinking water. That means we need to care if they do not have adequate housing. That means we need to care if they can read or write. That means that we care if they are sick or in need of medical care. That means we need to hold “pro-life” candidates to a standard of not only protecting the unborn, but caring about them after they are born. I am not telling you who to vote for. I am not telling you to vote Republican or Democrat, but I am telling you that we need to make those we do vote for accountable for their actions after the elections are over.

The Scriptures are very clear about our responsibility to others:

“Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, ‘Go, I wish you well;keep warm, and well fed.’ but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?”

James 2:15-16

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?”

1 John 3:17

“Is it not to share your food with the hungry, and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood.”

Isaiah 58:7

“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord; and He will reward him for what he has done.”

Proverbs 19:17

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

Hebrews 13:3

I do not know about you, but I cannot read those Scriptures without being challenged. I was even further more challenged when I read the following quote from the book *God’s Politics* by Jim Wallis:

“One student at Norte Dame passionately reminded the group that a legal practice that kills four thousand unborn children a day is an urgent moral imperative. But then she reminded that nine thousand people each day die of AIDS, thirty thousand children perish every day because of hunger and diseases mostly due to poverty, and as many as half a million are lost each year in international conflicts and war.”

I cannot call myself “pro-life” without it applying to all aspects of life. I must apply this meaning of being pro-life to how I react to those around me. I need to care about their whole person, not just their soul. Yes, I want them to know Jesus and His Salvation, but I also want them to know the “life to the full” that Jesus wanted them to have. Now, I challenge you, my friend. What about you?