

FEWER ABORTIONS SHOULD BE EVERYONE'S GOAL

Few abortions in Ohio – that should be everyone's goal. But how do we go about it? By law or by grace?

Do we pass laws and then use coercion, threats and intimidation to enforce them? Or is there a better, kinder, gentler, more loving way? A way of grace?

I don't know a single pro-choice Christian who has ever celebrated when someone had an abortion. In fact, Pro-choice Christians think that such a decision would and should be heartbreakingly difficult to make.

Pro-Choice Christians think that the number of abortions that are being done in this country is way too high and would like to lower that number. They would like to see a day when abortions will be, for the most part, unnecessary.

What they don't want to do, however, is criminalize abortion. Pro-Choice Christians know that, sadly, some women have abortions because they are lazy and irresponsible. But some women have abortions after long, desperate, soul wrenching thought and prayer. Pro-Choice Christians believe that neither these women nor their fetuses nor the cause of Christ are well served by threats and intimidation.

Instead, pro-Choice Christians would like to see all Christians working together to make abortion unnecessary by:

1. Teaching our children sexual responsibility and morality. You are responsible for what you do with your body. There is no such thing as "one thing led to another" or "it just happened."
2. Teaching our children that sexual intimacy is best left to mature adults who are completely and unconditionally committed to each other.
3. Making birth control cheap, safe, and accessible for all.

4. Providing support for parents who choose to carry to term fetuses with severe physical or mental anomalies. This would include tax-funded programs of financial aid, medical aid, physical and occupational therapy, respite care, special education, 24-hour health care, and other needs that these brave, and often desperate, families encounter.

5. Sentencing anyone convicted of rape or incest to life in prison without parole and providing tax funded, unlimited professional counseling for their victims. Also, teaching our sons that “no” means “no” and women are to be treated with dignity, respect, and love.

6. Creating a culture of adoption where no unwanted or abandoned child, regardless of race, disability, or family history, will go un-adopted

7. Providing day care on all three shifts. This can be funded by employers or taxes, but if we want single women to carry their fetuses all the way to delivery then they should know in advance that we will stand with them in their efforts to raise and support those children.

If our goal is to reduce the number of abortions we can choose to make the attempt by law or by grace. Law is easier. You just make some laws and then threaten to throw people into prison if they don't obey. Grace is kinder, gentler, tougher and more expensive.

The question for Christians is: “What would Jesus do?”

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