

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Morality and Poverty

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The House of Representatives of the United States of America recently debated an amendment which would clearly prohibit public funds being used for abortions under the proposed health care bill. It was interesting to hear each side of the issue debated. One side argued that the lack of funding for abortions under the health care bill would wipe out thirty years of so-called societal progress and take us back to back alleys where women would use coat hangers to end their pregnancy. The other side responded with the status quo that no tax dollars is allowed presently to fund abortions, and we should make sure that it stays that way.

It was frustrating to hear the debate because the proper response to the argument of back alley abortions is the appeal to a moral argument, an argument which leaders of our nation do not feel that can offer in the debate over public legislation. Does the lack of money deprive one of acting upon what is right? Protecting innocent life is a timeless principal of God, establishing what is right (*cf. Exodus 21:22-25, Romans 13:4*). Deliberately taking of innocent human life is likewise

immoral as seen in God’s consistent punishment for such sin (*Genesis 9:5-6, Acts 25:11*).

The last three decades has witnessed 1.5 million abortions a year in this country. In a 1987 survey offered by a pro-abortion Alan Guttmacher Institute, the major reasons for abortions were sadly given. 76% of women were concerned how having a baby could change one’s life; 68% of women said the woman can’t afford the baby now; 51 % said the woman has problems with relationships or wants to avoid single parenthood; 31 % said the woman is unready for responsibility; 31 % said the woman does not want others to know she has had sex or is pregnant; 39 % said the woman is not mature enough, or is too young to have a child; 26% said the woman has all the children she wanted, or has all grown-up children; and 23% said the husband or partner wants the woman to have an abortion.

The dirty secret of the public discourse is that usual reasons for arguing for abortion are rarely the true reasons for the actual abortion. 13% said the fetus has a possible health problem; 7% said the woman has a health problem;

and only 1% said the woman was a victim of rape or incest.

Examining the major reasons for abortion, it appears many Americans have substituted “convenience” for “morality”. It is not a matter of conforming to a divine standard of right or wrong, but that the baby will change my life, bankrupt, or embarrass me. It is about “me” and “my” comfort level instead about what is “right” or “wrong”.

The poor woman with a conviction of what is right or wrong will not allow herself to go to the back alleys to have a do-it-yourself abortion. Protecting the innocent life within her will be her choice regardless of the hardship or inconvenience that will follow. But this is apparently impossible in the minds of those crafting legislation for our country.

“*Did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to them that love Him?*” (*James 2:5*). Since when has making correct moral decisions been only reserved for the rich?