

Glad Tidings

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

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Picketing Churches – Not Abortion Clinics

(Jerry Fite)

The above suggestion was offered by one who had been told by various “pastors” of denominational churches that if they were to speak out against abortion, it would split their church. As another was about to speak against abortion to the young people of a church, he was told some girls in the audience had already had abortions. The thought is that maybe more progress against abortion would occur in our day if picketing clinics, where the abortions occur, would change to picketing churches who, in their silence, are encouraging the spreading of the practice. Maybe some would be forced to speak out when their silent truth is exposed.

The problem with the abortion issue is that it has not been dealt with in the public teaching of many churches, and it has now found silent acceptance. Reluctant acquiescence to the law of the land describes the heart of too many today. Among Protestant churches abortion might no longer be considered as something “giving in to”, but something members are “actively pursuing.” According to a recent Guttmacher Institute survey, 37% of abortions in the United States occur among

“Protestants” and 28% among “Catholics” Imagine that 65 percent of abortions in our country are occurring among people who believe the Bible to be the Word of God! I surely do not want anyone picketing our church charging us with being complicit through silence to the killing of over a million babies a year in our country. And, I surely want the women of this congregation to understand the principles revealed in God’s Word which I believe condemn the practice of abortion on demand, even though it is presently legal.

God “*hates*” the “*shedding of innocent blood*” (Prov. 6:16-17). What is more innocent among human beings than a baby in the womb? We cannot accept the evil practice of Hitler deliberately sending 5-6 million innocent Jews to their death during World War II. How can we be silent when our land has witnessed since 1973 over 51 million innocent children being deliberately killed through abortion on demand? The sheer numbers of shedding innocent blood through abortion should cause as much of an outcry among Bible believers, if not more, than that decrying the Holocaust!

We hear that a fetus is

merely part of the woman’s body. The fetus is just some mature embryonic tissue belonging to the mother. But such terms hide the facts that by the 8th week, all the body systems identifying it as a separate human being are present. A separate DNA is now in place distinguishing the baby from the mother; and by day 21, the heart of that developing human is circulating its own blood. The fetus is a distinctive living human being distinguishable from the mother. Abortion is shedding the baby’s own innocent blood!

The New Testament uses the Greek word “*brephos*” when referring to a “babe” or a “child.” While being a rich language, the Greeks use the same word to denote the child, whether in the womb (Luke 1:44), our as a newborn (Luke 2:12) or as a young child (Luke 18:15). The Bible recognizes the fetus in the womb as a “babe”, not mere tissue.

If the deliberate taking of an innocent human life is morally wrong, then abortion is sinful. But how wrong is it to take a human life today, when our society drinks from the humanistic wells of Darwinian evolution and sees human life as having no greater value than that of animals?