

FREEDOM'S RING
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"Proclaim liberty throughout the land" (Lev.25:10).
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HOOK'S POINTS- Cecil Hook
Subscription Information

JOIN THE FUN we are anticipating seeing old friends and making new ones at a reception in New Braunfels next Sunday afternoon, October 24, from 2:00 till 5:00. Paul, Mira, Tom, Joey, and I plan to be in the 9:00 a.m. assembly also. Coming from either direction on IH 35, take the Walnut Street Exit, turn toward San Antonio, and go three blocks to reach the building of the Church of Christ. Questions: call Brad and Kay Bradfute at 1-830-625-4374.

FR 236

Abortion: Your Responses

It is not surprising that last week's FR 235 concerning abortion brought an unusual number of responses from you. Neither is it surprising that most of them heartily endorsed what I wrote. Your approval encourages me, yet you and I know that whether killing the unborn is right or wrong is not determined by our approval or disapproval. It is based upon principles of morality. And believers know that God's "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not" definitions of morality did not make those actions right or wrong. They were morally right or wrong already so that God just aided in defining morality for the selfish and unmerciful.

In this issue I will deal with some points made in your responses. I will reveal no names for this is not dealing with personalities but with teachings. If a painful experience with abortion in your life has led you to become defensive, I can sympathize with that for choosing the more merciful course can be painful. I want to encourage all to choose mercy, and that will coincide with what is morally right.

"Religion and politics don't mix," one brother wrote. "I've heard this most of my life from Christians. I take the position that one of the best ways to 'render unto Caesar what is Caesar's' in today's America is to VOTE! Abortion and Gay marriage came about through activist judges by-passing us voters and our elected Congress. I shudder to think of believers passively accepting the degradation of Biblical morals as if we have no recourse to affect change. Shame on us who claim to profess the teachings of Christ when we sit and do little – much less consider mixing our 'religion' and politics."

Well stated! “Bad officials are elected by good citizens who don’t vote.” If your religion does not guide all your decisions in life, then it is a fruitless religion with no real effect in your life. Religious bodies should not try to become political entities but individuals are called upon to be the salt of the earth, a flavoring influence for good in society. We can use our influence by voting for those who espouse the higher causes and philosophies. No candidate for any office is perfect but some stand for higher ideals than others do.

Do self-interests determine your voting? Read this from a preaching brother: “If the presidential candidate was a complete moron and likely to ruin our economy if elected, but maintained a strong will against abortion, and promised to do all within his power to fight for the rights of the unborn, I would vote for him. This is the issue that is uppermost in my heart. Hang the price of oil and high inflation; **SAVE THE BABIES AT ALL COSTS!**”

Is he a “single issue” voter? Not at all. He is a voter with unselfish priorities. To place mercy and life above the economy does not destroy the economy! A Congress can protect life and aid the economy, medical care, and other programs at the same time.

Suppose that you are driving down the road when a little child suddenly runs out in front of you. Will you run over the child to avoid wrecking your car? Whose interest has priority, the child’s life or your financial loss? You would even roll your new car down an embankment destroying it and risking your own life to save the child’s life. Why not demonstrate that same nobility – that same mercy in voting?

“It is absolutely abhorrent to think anyone could condone partial birth abortion,” wrote one Christian woman. Another says, “I sent this article to every one in my address book. (So did another reader. CH) I fear severe punishment on our country if we allow the liberal agenda to continue in this despicable practice. Thanks for using your outreach to fight it.” These “modern” women espouse the **RIGHT TO SAVE LIFE** rather than the **RIGHT TO KILL**.

“So we should vote for a man who is a proven liar, a cheat, and whose policies continue to result in unnecessary bloodshed all for the sake of his pride,” another reader begins. Be careful! Slander is also a deadly sin! The list of those declaring that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction includes Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Al Gore, Madeleine Albright, John Kerry, and most everybody else in high position. They had access to the same governmental intelligence with George Bush. But George Bush was lying and the others were not!! Give me a break! Mass graves are still being uncovered proving that Hussein had used WMD. But what has all that to do with abortion? That is a prejudicial dodge of the issue. Can anyone deny that partial birth abortion is immoral?

The “unnecessary bloodshed” intimates that our military heroes are dying for nothing! Is killing 3,671 babies per day “necessary bloodshed”? In the year 2000 alone, there were more infants killed without mercy than all our military personnel killed in all of our wars from the revolutionary war to the current one combined! You do not hear that on the evening news or in the political speeches of liberal candidates.

The reader continues, “The effort to make a moral country will always be doomed to failure. The US never has been and never will be. When we weren’t committing genocide against the native Americans we were raping, killing and enslaving Africans. When we got done with that we started aborting fetuses. And when we stop that something else will come up.” Another evasion! One sin does not justify another! The mistreatment of the natives and Africans (both horrible abuses) does not justify killing babies in the birth process. Our citizens have taken great, costly, unselfish steps to rectify and heal those abuses against races. Morally conscious people are now seeking to save innocent lives, but they are being opposed as vigorously today as abolitionists were in trying to free the slaves.

People, not countries, are moral or immoral. Does the reader imply that our country has no business making laws regulating morality? If so, then no one should be charged or convicted for fraud, arson, sexual harassment, rape, incest, slander, prostitution, public nudity, public intoxication, peddling dope, or murder. Those are all moral crimes, hence, spiritual sins from the religious viewpoint. Legislation does not make people moral. Laws are made for those who do not have the principle of love and mercy in their hearts (Read 1 Tim. 1:8-11). Laws cannot prevent the crimes mentioned above, or abortion, but they help to protect the innocent from them. Yes, there will always be abortions but they can surely be curtailed and discouraged by both law and education.

“I’m so tired of so-called Christians posturing about how the only thing that matters is abortion,” he continues to complain. Do you mean that all Christians who oppose abortion are hypocrites? I have never known a Christian who contended that the only thing that matters is abortion. I dealt with that earlier. But we do contend that 3,671 lives snuffed out daily by abortion in our great country is of higher priority than our other self-interests.

Again, “Remember God thought nothing of destroying innocents many times in the OT...the flood killed babies, as did commands from the prophets to Israel’s rulers.” True! And we cannot explain all of God’s actions. But since we are not God, let us wait for his instructions or permission before killing the innocents in the birth process or kill the embryo for stem cell research for our self-interest.

Concerning victims of rape and incest, another reader replies, “Maybe there is a third party candidate with no chance of winning who lacks the characteristics of a good president but doesn’t make an exception for rape or incest...if so, your logic would require me to vote for him or her, right?” That would be foolishly throwing your vote away if it could not help to relieve the problem. Since abortion is an unpopular issue for a candidate, I will vote for the one who has the courage to be a voice of mercy for the unborn in any positive way. Does making the exception for rape and incest outweigh the choice of terminating the lives of 3,671 infants per day?

This reader adds, “I’m going to vote for the best candidate for the job of president of the United States.” Amen! I am with you there! However, I do not consider a president who

puts general issues above saving the lives of 3,671 babies each day the best for the job. Do you – really?

The other negative response begins with, “I agree with you inasmuch as abortion is wrong,” and then goes into this flip-flop defense. “However it has been around for years and will not end. What troubles me about all those opposed to abortion is that they care about the child as long as it is in the womb or the birth canal or even partially born but once the child is born it is on its own. The republicans have refused to fund many social programs that would care for infants and children. This is hypocrisy at the highest level. If you will remember correctly it was the Supreme court that made abortion legal.”

I did not know that it was the government’s duty to raise infants and children. Have we become that socialistic? We do have various programs to help indigent mothers to care for them. Better than governmental social programs, there are always couples wanting children to adopt. Many are going overseas to find children to adopt because they cannot find them here. And even better, most women would never give their children away if they were allowed to see them and hold them in their arms for an hour.

Regardless of the Supreme Court ruling, “a moral wrong can never be a civil right”!

Two of the objectors flirted with the concept held by some that heaven is being filled with unborn children who are in a much better place than this earth. So why did you not abort your children or encourage you wife and daughters to abort many children to fill heaven? Oh, I see -- that is not for the objector’s children but for the children of other people!

Though God says, “You shall not kill,” it would be unmerciful to deny self-defense for an individual, his family, and his country. Since God is merciful, he allows that exception. There are merciful exceptions to laws but **THE EXCEPTION MUST NOT BECOME THE LAW**, allowing us to go around killing those who do not serve our interests. The exception is not a loophole for escaping the law or principles of morality.

Here’s hoping that you will vote your CHOICE and your CONSCIENCE and that they will be the same. God bless.

(Cecil Hook; October 2004)

Talkin’ Texas: Tyler (Texas) Municipal Rose Garden is the world’s largest rose garden with over 38,000 bushes with 500 varieties on 22 acres.

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