

*Right to Life*

Those who feel that easy access to abortion is necessary to protect women who are unwillingly pregnant state that a woman should be able to terminate an unwanted pregnancy, and that abortion should be available to all women regardless of age, marital status, or income level.

Those who disagree base their reasoning on the definition of human life given by members of a scientific group in Washington, D.C., and I quote:

The majority of our group could find no point in time between the union of sperm and egg and the birth of the infant at which point we could say that this is not a human life. The changes occurring between implantation, a six-week embryo, a six-month fetus, a one-week child, or a mature adult, are merely at stages of development and maturation.

It is difficult for those who accept this concept of life to find a common ground on which to meet those who desire abortion as a means of enduring childbirth by choice.

We who oppose abortion do so because we believe in the right to life. We are falsely depicted by those who are pro-abortion as unconcerned with the reality of the 15-year-old girl who is pregnant because she does not know any better, or the mother of five who can see no way to support another child, or the woman who is carrying a defective child. We are seen as forcing a theory of life on a world that is torn by suffering and personal torment. Individual liberty and freedom of choice are catch phrases that are fast gaining control of our society.

People's feelings are for what they can see, not what someone has told them exists. Their eyes and minds focus on the woman, not the child she carries. Their sympathy is for the suffering of those already born, not for the one who is waiting to be born. They care not for the right to life, but only for the lives that are apparent. They seem to infer that to fight abortion is to put women into a state of perpetual pregnancy.

I am against abortion, but I do believe in birth control and the education of the public regarding various means of preventing conception. The public has become confused by the fact that those who favour abortion state that every woman should have the right to decide whether or not to carry a child. To them abortion is a matter of personal conscience and no woman should be forced to carry a child, or terminate her pregnancy. Aside from the fact that women can and have been frightened or manoeuvred into having abortions, the destruction of the child is the main issue.

The Canadian Association for the Repeal of the Abortion Law states that Canada must be willing to join other countries where legal abortion is readily available. Their reasoning for this is that it prevents illegal abortion and that it faces the reality of abortion as a major health issue. It preserves the physical, mental, social, and economic well-being of the women concerned. If it does those things, it is a hypothesis which has not yet been proved.

The ends envisaged can be met through other means. Proper education solves many problems, especially when the education gives complete understanding of birth control methods available, and a thorough understanding of the value of human life. Man must learn that the preservation and continued

growth of the human race demands that the weak must be protected from the strong, and the unborn must be protected from the mature. The concept of equality before the law demands that all participants be included, not just those who can yell the loudest.

Many doctors today now admit that there is no medical reason for abortion. Even the late Dr. Guttmacher, who was one of the strongest allies of the abortion movement stated:

Today in our modern society it is possible to take almost any woman safely through her pregnancy except if she has cancer or leukemia, in which case an abortion would not save her life much less prolong it.

One of the big problems for those fighting abortion and the destruction of innocent life, is that while there is proof that life begins at conception, people are willing to destroy that life and make the social and economic status of the mother more important than the right to life of those who cannot speak for themselves. We are fast losing sight of the traditional western ethic which has always placed emphasis on the basic worth and equal value of every human life regardless of its stage or condition. By destroying another life to ensure one's economic and social success, the human race is losing whatever dignity and honour it has worked to build for itself over the centuries. It is only right and proper that the individual be protected, that he or she be granted the God given life and the right to grow and learn at his or her own rate.

Unfortunately, all individuals are not granted the same rights. The legalization of abortion implies that the end justifies the means, that destruction is allowable if a certain quality of life is preserved for those who remain. Self-interest then is held to be more important than the common good. Truth becomes lost as man learns to define himself in terms of what he thinks is useful and convenient.

To place a utilitarian value on human life, to see each person only in terms of his economic worth, can and will lead to the destruction of human life. It will lead to the murder of those already born who through mental or physical incapacity are not able to contribute to society what may be demanded of them by extremists. These and any other attempts to negate life, to state that it has no value in itself must never be tolerated.

Life is an automatic value, and the handicapped child has the same right as any other person to develop his or her full potential as a human being. Abortion, infanticide, and mercy killing have a tendency to follow one upon the other. To destroy life on any level is to accept that all life has only a relative value.

Can those who propose the complete legalization of abortion guarantee that it will end there? Can they guarantee that the legal murder of the unborn will not lead society to other forms of murder? I think not.

Statistics show that the number of abortions have increased by leaps and bounds, which creates a situation where those hospitals which choose a lax interpretation of the law are now experiencing difficulty dealing with the backlog. Needed