

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. - King Lemuel (Prov. 31:8-9)



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Paths of Justice

The New Counterculture

As Christians living in a broken world, we are constantly in the position of evaluating ideas as we make decisions that guide our actions. The culture is consistently pressing into our lives. Seven days a week we are exposed to news, opinions, entertainment, laws and actions that do not square with Biblical teaching. Culture tells us what has value. Concepts from other cultures make news headlines, such as that older people and sick people cost too much and they should be euthanized (killed). Our cultural evolution, including the 1968 book *The Population Bomb* by Paul Ehrlich, led families to limit the number of children while countercultural groups led by people like Abbie Hoffman and Timothy Leary and films like *Easy Rider* changed society. We ended up in a place where our own pleasure was valued over others' lives. So how do we make decisions? Our topic this month is life. In order to make good decisions that uphold the inestimable value of all life and influence others we must have a Biblical worldview and not just adopt the societal position. We must counter the cultural input with Biblical input.

- Tom Castor

Definition of injustice:
Injustice occurs when someone with greater power deprives someone with lesser power of freedom, dignity, treasure, or livelihood.

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”

- Ps. 139:13-15

From Death to Life

The culture has pressed into the church as it has the rest of the world. One of the most terrifying changes in the culture has been the dehumanization of human life. Culture has told us that whatever makes us happy, do it. Yet God is gracious. He patiently offers us the truth, and when we are hardheaded, persisting in our own way, He allows us to face the consequences of our own choices, which can in turn wake us up to the true goodness of God’s self-giving love.

Enter Myra Neyer, a mom of five children and former employee at a Planned Parenthood (PP) clinic in Baltimore. PP is America’s largest seller of abortion, executing more than a third of them: 321,384 in 2017. There was a defining moment that influenced Myra to leave the abortion giant.

“There was this one girl, maybe 19 [or] 20, she came in, [and] her boyfriend didn’t want any children. He was an older man...we signed her in, did the ultrasound and she found out that instead of one [baby], there were four, [who] were all

identical,” Myra recounted.

She said this particular girl did not want to have an abortion, but her boyfriend was forcing her to have the procedure. “[He] was flipping out, and...I didn’t sign off on it. So she left, and what he ended up doing was taking her to what I call a butcher clinic, somewhere else, and they gave her the misoprostol and then the next day she came in...in a lot of pain and bleeding.”

The PP clinic I worked for ended up finishing the abortion procedure, and she said she will never forget it: “She had to have been at least 15, almost 16 weeks [along in her pregnancy], the babies were big...these two babies were holding each other... they were all boys, and they were just holding each other, and the last one was the one that we have to make sure we had all the pieces [of his body]. It was just horrible. And then the look on her face when this was all over, she just looked lost...I just remember looking at her, putting her in...her friend’s truck, and just her face was like (over)

From Death to Life - Continued

this blank stare.”

“That did it for me...I hit the wall with my co-worker and we were crying. We stayed in there and cried over these kids...I remember saying, ‘That’s a baby, that’s a baby, that looks exactly like a baby’... we just stood in that room [storing the discarded baby parts] and cried,” Myra said.

It was the witness of a participant in 40 Days for Life, a campaign of fasting, prayer, and outreach to bring an end to abortion, that was instrumental in Myra’s pro-life conversion. “There was this lady, her name was Mary, she was just out there every day...a smile, just kind words, ‘I’m praying for you.’”

She said that she took the job at PP to support her children and provide women with health care. But before leaving the clinic, she realized that PP was about making money. “I would tell them my story about my five kids and how I was a widow, and how I could do it,” Myra said. In one case of talking with a patient who was considering an abortion, Myra said the patient ended up choosing life “and then the doctor was angry at me...[that] she changed her mind. That’s when I realized it wasn’t about choice, it was about a quota...the higher in the weeks [of pregnancy], the more money it costs for the abortion.”

Myra connected with a ministry called And Then There Were None, started by Abby Johnson, another former PP employee. And Then There Were None reaches out to abortion clinic workers who want to leave the industry, offering help financially, in job searches, and emotional and spiritual support.



PP has also been involved in killing babies after being born alive, harvesting and selling organs, including brains, from live, breathing babies, laughing at the mutilation of babies, covering up rape and coercion, and bringing about the deaths of women. Yet they still receive more than \$550 million in taxpayer funding, and last year their net assets were more than \$1.6 billion.

Needless to say, your prayers and support are urgently needed to bring redemption, healing, and transformation in our country. Pregnancy resource centers are doing incredible work, including using technology that is the equivalent of the Hubble Space Telescope to bring a window on the womb, helping mothers and fathers to see and hear their babies, and equipping them with information, help, and healing. Organizations like Heartbeat International, CareNet, the Family Research Council, the Alliance

Defending Freedom, and the American Center for Law and Justice, help to provide material, informational, medical, and legal support and protection. Pray for them, for those who operate abortion clinics, for our lawmakers, and for our fellow Americans. Contact your legislators and urge them to protect preborn babies. Teach others about the value of all lives. The culture is pressing in on them and they need to hear the message of life. Volunteer at a PDHC clinic. And “put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Eph. 6:13).

Opportunities / Activities

- Go here to get “21 Days of Prayer for Life”, put together by top pro-life leaders to encourage Christians to unite, pray, and engage for the case for life: <http://www.breakpoint.org/21days/>.
- Go to PDHC’s website here to learn more about opportunities to serve in our local pregnancy resource centers, or let one of us know if you’d like more details: <http://www.supportpdhc.org/volunteers/>.
- Consider helping with the Bair Foundation, the Christian adoption and foster care agency in Columbus, which we’ve spotlighted before and can be found here: <https://www.bair.org>.
- Pray for FCC’s ongoing investigative work and development of plans to serve victims of injustice.
- Do you want to get more involved with righting injustice? Come to our Justice Team meetings where prayer happens, plans are made, and investigations continue.
- Check with Tom Castor (tcbus7@att.net) or Doug Dunsmoor (dwdunsmoor@hotmail.com) for more information about these and more opportunities.