



LIFE NEWS

*It's Not a
Single Issue*

The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

by Nigel Unrau, Lead Pastor

The idea of being a single-issue voter is somewhat of a misnomer, in my opinion. However, if there were to be a single issue that would sway my vote, it would be abortion. There are many complexities that go into establishing a political platform, but abortion would be the defining issue of what would sway my vote.

This is because most of the other, very important, issues have to do with quality of life while abortion addresses someone's view of the value of life. Abortion—in the way that it is used in more than 98% of the cases—implies that human life is disposable. The unexpected conception of a human being can become an inconvenience or becomes a drag on someone's personal aspirations so that they can be put down. And for me, if a politician has a disregard for the sacredness of a human being, then I can be assured that they will likely also devalue what produces a good quality of life for that human being.

That's why the abortion is not a single, standalone issue because the same worldview that says it is okay to kill a helpless human is used to shape the society for those who are living in it. The mindset that allows for abortion trickles down into the definition of the family, economics, taxation, social programs, personal freedom, the freedom of expression, and the freedom of religion. They are part and parcel of one another. And it cuts both ways. The

mindset that upholds the sacredness of human life is one that typically affirms that this quality is one given to us by our Creator. That we are not random chance, and so neither should be our way of life. We were created by design, and our Designer has a way of life for us individually and societally that He knows will produce good for us.

Today, secularists will use terms like "human flourishing" as a tool for determining what is moral, which is just another way to arrive at a biblical morality without involving God. Perhaps we haven't considered enough that the God who made us knows best what will cause us to flourish. But the irony of such terms is that they sound appealing; I mean, who doesn't want to flourish, right? The irony is that in one breath, they want human flourishing, and in the next, they advocate for the necessity of a woman's right to choose human termination.

And because they—those who reject Jesus and a biblical worldview—are content to live with these inconsistencies, they think we are too.

This is why we always hear the argument that if abortion is outlawed (which the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* does NOT) but if it were to be outlawed, then the Church better be ready to put its money where its proverbial mouth is. What are Christians going to do with all of these

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extra babies coming into the world? How are Christians going to take care of single moms and surrendered babies?

First, you can't take the responsibility of making up for and removing the consequences of someone's choices, placing them on someone else. It doesn't follow that because another person may be unwilling to adopt a child that the mother should have the right to abort her child. The standard for a society cannot be that we must obligate others to make up for the unwanted results of what two consenting adults have done in conceiving a child, or they can take the life of the child. They are two separate considerations. What do the consenting adults need to do to take responsibility for their child? And what can we do to help them? Those who advocate for unrestricted abortion want to position the argument in conditional terms. The condition for making abortion illegal would be that Christians —because we say we care so much about the unborn— must be obligated to take on all the responsibilities of the child and the mother. And since they know that this could never become actual legislation, this feels like a trump card in their argument.

The irony is that this is what Christians already do, without the obligation and without the legislation. The Church has always held the view that being a follower of Jesus means that our obligations to Him supersede our obligations to anything else. In the book of James, we read that true religion is the care of the widow and the orphan. We are to see our service in Jesus' name as providing for the distressed and needy in our world. We don't need the government to legislate what Christ is already putting in our hearts.

For Christians, adoption is a term we are familiar with as we ourselves have been adopted by our Heavenly Father. So, opening our hearts and homes to foster and adopt children into our own families has been something that Christians have been doing gladly for thousands of years.

It doesn't mean that we have arrived at the place of being completely selfless or that we don't need to take

care of ourselves. All of us need to grow; we need to cultivate the heart of Christ within ourselves as the Holy Spirit leads us. We are all still working through "putting to death" our earthly nature, as Paul says in **Colossians 3:5**, and putting on the heart of compassion, kindness, humility, etc., of **Colossians 3:10**. As this happens, the grace we have received should become the graciousness that we give to others. We all have a tendency to be self-focused, looking more internally at what is already part of our lives than what needs are around us. But thankfully, the Spirit of God is faithful to open our eyes and burden our hearts in ways that nothing and no one else could.

I am so thankful for those people around me that have embraced fostering and adoption. They have given life and hope to the child and have provided a path forward for the birth mom. They have been a testimony of the grace of God and the goodness of our Savior by giving a home and a place of belonging to a helpless child. They gave of themselves to care for and nurture a priceless human being made in the image of God. Not because Roe v. Wade was overturned, but because Jesus lives in their hearts. May the Lord continue to open our eyes to the opportunities for compassion and care for the most helpless among us.

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Nigel



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