
ENDURANCE **IN THE BATTLE**



Rev. Rusty Lee Thomas

“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”

2 Timothy 2:3



IN EVERY GENERATION evil separates men and nations into three groups: **those who advocate evil, those who ignore evil, and those who arise in Jesus' name to vanquish evil.** *Endurance in the Battle* is a companion booklet to the *Field Manual for Abortion Ministry*. It was written to further expose the subtle schemes of the enemy in the area of abortion ministry. Generally speaking, Satan attempts to paralyze Christians in their service to God. This is especially true when it comes to the Church's responsibility to overcome child sacrifice (abortion) and homosexuality, the dominant evils of our age.

It is not a coincidence that most of those who "guard" abortion death camps and escort women inside are homosexuals. This association is spiritual. Homosexuals seem to understand the battle much better than Christians. They instinctively know the source of their spiritual empowerment—the blood of aborted babies nurtures the demonic realm. In other words, the sin of abortion helps to enable the homosexual agenda (Psalm 106:37).

THE EARLY CHURCH

“And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:27)

THE CHURCH has encountered numerous evils throughout her history. Inspired by the doctrine that man is made in the image of God, she rose up and defeated many ancient evils. Evils of human sacrifice, slavery, infanticide, and other atrocities ended through the power of God and the Church’s intercession. The Body of Christ has gone from terror to triumph countless times. After a time of trial, God eventually arose to judge His enemies and rescue His people. This has been the historical pattern for two thousand years.

America may suffer greater judgments before it gets better, but God will do it again.



THE GREAT COMMISSION

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR LORD has set before the Church a grand obligation. It is called the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Discipling nations, baptizing them, and instructing them to obey God’s commandments should be the burning passion of every blood bought, born-again child of God. First and foremost, we should obey for God’s glory (John 17:4).

Secondly, we obey for the benefit of men and nations, those for whom Christ died to redeem.

If we fail to disciple the nations, there are consequences. Sometimes, there are severe consequences. For instance, the Church’s failure to speak and act against dominant evils in history inadvertently strengthened oppressors and prolonged the suffering of victims, which devastated

nations. If the Church did not “overcome evil with good,” the evil she ignored eventually harmed her. It destroyed her credibility.

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When cowardice and compromise filled the pulpit, the Church’s witness rang hollow. In addition, when God judged nations, His people suffered along with the wicked. God rains on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45). Thankfully, there were times that God mercifully put difference between the children of light and the children of darkness (Exodus 10:22, 23). He has in times past delivered individuals from group consequences. The typical experience during national judgment, however, is corporate suffering.

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God warned people of His judgment if they refused to obey His commands. When God’s people entered the Promise Land, God warned, “But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in

your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.”

In the New Testament, Jesus stated, “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men” (Matthew 5:13). Notice, if the Church fails to preserve and protect men and nations from immorality, lawlessness, and corruption there will be consequences. These consequences will eventually hurt the welfare of the Church.



“GOOD FOR NOTHING”

When the Church refuses to be “salt and light” in a nation, God corrects her. Our Lord lists three specific penalties for this disobedience. First, the Church will become “good for nothing.” In other words, the Church will become irrelevant in the real world. The Church will not be taken seriously in the affairs of men. Most will consider the Church archaic, superstitious, and superfluous to society.

Think of Millennials. Most of them are self-indulged, pampered, and entitlement driven. They mock the Church and want nothing to do with her. They find little or no meaning, value or significance within in her bosom. Even those who are raised in the Church reject the Body of Christ. When they are old enough to make their own decisions, most of them leave and never return.

“THROWN OUT”

Second, the Church will be “thrown out.” We will be pressed to privatize our faith. We will be marginalized in society. Speaking the truth in love will be perceived as hate, possibly

even a hate crime. If Christian business owners do not bow to the idol of tolerance, the new orthodoxy will penalize them as heretics. As men and nations establish evil as good and good as evil (Isaiah 5:20), the Church will not be tolerated, which brings us to the last chastisement.

“TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT”

Finally, the Church will be “trampled underfoot by men.” As more and more evil is codified into law, the government will (of necessity) punish the righteous. It will fulfill the twofold abomination revealed in the book of Proverbs, “He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD” (Proverbs 17:15).

America is making a conscious decision to protect, celebrate, and promote that which God calls abominations. Abortion, homosexuality, and a host of other evils are enshrined. Our country pursues this foolish course at the expense of freedom. Our chains are being forged while most Christians “sing a little louder” in our Churches. Little realizing, our nation is being turned into hell under our watch (Psalms 9:17).

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The Church in America must remember that there is no neutral ground in the cosmic war raging for the future of our planet

(Genesis 3:15). Men are either for Christ or against Him. Men are either gathering or they are scattering (Luke 11:23). Men and nations either fall on Christ to be broken or He falls on them to crush them to powder (Psalms 2:10-12; Matthew 21:44).



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:23-25)

WE NEED prophetic reformers to call Christians into the battle for the souls of men, the lives of children, and for the future hope of nations. Part of their mission must include training good soldiers of Jesus Christ for spiritual warfare. When taking territory for Christ, retaliation is inevitably. Abortion is Satan’s crown jewel. Whenever Satan rears his ugly head he goes after the seed of man; those who seek to stop him will attract his ire (Revelation 12:17). Biblical Christianity is not a playground. It is a war zone. There are far too many casualties when we do not equip brothers and sisters for the attacks that will surely come in the wake of their obedience.

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Men of God are called to specific offices in the Body of Christ. They have an obligation to use their gifting, anointing, talent, and calling to lay down their lives to enhance others. They are not to lord it over God's people, but to undergird God's people and to serve as examples. The Apostle Peter reminds us:

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away (1 Peter 5:1-4).

God did not place His mantle on men so that men could build *themselves* or *their ministries*. God calls the Church to disciple souls in the faith and advance God's Kingdom in the earth. If the shepherds truly love Christ, they will feed His sheep with the milk and meat of His Word. They will lead the lambs to the Lord's living waters so they may drink

deeply from the wells of salvation. (John 21:15-17). Jesus promised, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38).

The Apostle Paul taught that the manifold offices of God are established to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, until something glorious happens. He explains, “Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). In time and history, the Holy Spirit will bring to pass this fullness in the Body of Christ.



PROVOKING ONE ANOTHER TO GOOD WORKS

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Hebrews 3:13)

MEN OF GOD are to use their gifting and influence to provoke one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). In keeping with this admonishment, Operation Rescue National/Operation Save America hosts a yearly leadership meeting. In fact, the inspiration for this booklet came from OSA’s meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2016. Typically, the messages at our leadership meeting are prophetic in nature. They are tailored to cast a vision for a new year of ministry. Those meetings in February, however, brought a change of emphasis. The teachings were more pastoral in nature.

Proverbs 24:11-12 reads, “If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, behold we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul

doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?"

Fighting the battle to end the American holocaust is not for the faint of heart. In fact, right before this famous rescue verse in Proverbs, God Word states, "If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small" (Proverbs 24:10).

Jeremiah concurred, "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?" (Jeremiah 12:5) It takes courage, perseverance, humility, and a healthy understanding of redemptive suffering to persevere in this battle.

Every Christian worth their weight in salt should live to hear these words from our Lord, "Well done, thou good and faithful

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servant" (Matthew 25:21). But pleasing God comes at a cost. Christians must count the cost of obedience and then be willing to pay the price, until the Church arises to vanquish this bloody evil from our land.

SNARES, PITFALLS, AND TRAPS

“For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength.” (Psalm 31:3-4)

AS WE ENTER THE BATTLE, there will be resistance, opposition, and demonic attacks (2 Corinthians 12:7). Snares, pitfalls, and traps will emerge to try and make us fruitless in our endeavors to be loving, dutiful children of God. This should not surprise us. The Apostle Paul taught, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12). The Apostle Peter agreed, “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you” (1 Peter 4:12). It is through much tribulation that the saints of the Lord graduate into God’s everlasting Kingdom (Acts 14:22).

Thankfully, in the midst of the struggle, God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalms 119:105). God’s Word acts like a flashlight; it shines in the immediate area. It is not a long distant spotlight; it does not light the

vast expanse of our entire life. Our finite minds could not handle it. It does, however, grant us enough illumination to negotiate through the snares, pitfalls, and traps that are set before us. It always takes steps of faith and patience to serve God and obtain His promises (Hebrews 6:12).

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In the midst of the battle that rages from within and from without, it is good to remember that our sufficiency is not found

in ourselves; It comes from God. Our sufficiency is found in Christ alone. 2 Corinthians 9:8 assures us, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." Without Christ as the source of our empowerment, we will falter in the battle. It is not our will power or determination that will ultimately keep us faithful, but a humble dependence upon the grace, power, and the nurturing presence of our Lord.



A CALL FOR HELP

“We who are strong ought to bear with the shortcomings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. (Romans 15:1-2)”

JUST BEFORE the leadership meeting in Arkansas, I received a phone call from a concerned brother. He shared a testimony about how he had received harsh treatment for defending innocent babies made in the image of God. As a result, he was moved with admiration toward Christians who have remained in the battle to defeat culture of death. He asked, “How were you all able to endure such struggles in the battle?” He wanted to stand. He wanted to remain faithful. He just needed the tools. My answers to him will prayerfully provide some of the basis for the rest of this booklet.

First, it is important to note that most of us were birthed into this battle through Holy Ghost conviction. God broke our hearts, opened our eyes, and granted us the gift of repentance. As a result, we sought to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. In obedience to God’s Word, we rescued

those unjustly sentenced to death (Proverbs 24:11, 12). We spoke for those who could not speak for themselves (Proverbs 31:8, 9). We loved our neighbor as ourselves. Our ultimate goal was to not to become “prolife activists” but faithful ministers of the Gospel of the Kingdom.

On some level we knew the blood of our nation’s children was on our hands (Isaiah 1:15). We also knew that national sin brings national calamity. Led by God’s Spirit, we went to the exposed areas of our nation, the areas that Satan exploited to decimate our nation.

God forbid that we preach to others and then find ourselves disqualified.

It has not been easy. We have been at “war” against the principalities, powers, the rulers of darkness of this world, and spiritual

wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). So why have some warriors lasted while others have fallen away?

Ultimately, it was the Lord who sustained us. He kept us through the good, the bad, and the ugly. Praise His Holy Name!

Along the way, certain lessons and biblical principles were learned that enabled us to keep standing. It is important to

recall these principles so we can finish our lap of the race with integrity. God forbid that we preach to others and then find ourselves disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:27). As Christians, our goals should be to start well and finish strong.



ELIJAH SYNDROME

“But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.” (1 Kings 19:4).

MOST know the story of the glorious showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. It was a challenge between two diverse religious systems— the one true God versus the counterfeit god, Baal. The one who answered by fire would be recognized as the true and living God. Though the Baal prophets danced, shouted, and cut themselves till they bled, not even a puff of smoke came from Baal. It was left to Elijah to prove that he served the only true God, the God who answered by fire. Elijah prayed and fire fell from heaven. Baal and his prophets were defeated and God’s people returned to the Lord. It was a glorious triumph.

The Bible states Elijah was a man who had a nature like our own. Yet, God used him in a powerful way to call Israel back to Himself (James 5:17). On the heels of this tremendous

victory, Queen Jezebel retaliated. Upon hearing of the death of the prophets of Baal, she threatened, “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not your life [Elijah] as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time” (1 Kings 19:2).

Though Elijah was brave enough to stand before an apostate nation and 450 vile Baal prophets, the spirit behind Jezebel devastated him. Elijah ran for his life, fell into great depression, and desired his own death. The prophet succumbed to what I term the “Elijah syndrome.”

Feminism, homosexuality, and abortion (child sacrifice) is fueled by the same spirit. The Jezebel spirit hates prophetic men, especially those who know who they are in Christ and wield Kingdom authority. If you are a man of God who seeks to follow Elijah’s example by turning the fathers hearts to the children and the children’s hearts back to their fathers, you are indeed a threat to the spirit of Jezebel (Malachi 4:4-6; Luke 1:17; Revelation 2:20-23).



“I ONLY I AM LEFT”

“Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.” (Romans 11:3, 4)

NOT ONLY did Elijah become despondent, he thought he was alone in the battle. He assumed he was the only one left standing for the Lord. As a result, he questioned the service of others. Where were they while the battle raged? Why are they not addressing this national evil? Why are they not standing with me to lead the nation back to God?

This is equivalent to proliferators who ask, “Where is the Church? Can they not see the carnage? Why are they not moved to love their neighbor and end the American holocaust?” Elijah’s famous complaint was, “I only I am left.” Yet, God assured him that there were 7000 people who had not bowed the knee nor kissed the image of Baal. Perhaps, the 7000 felt they were alone as well.

In this battle to vanquish the evil of abortion, there will be minimal support from the Church. Yes, there are those Churches and pastors who co-labor and they are precious. OSA leadership is made up largely of pastors, former pastors, and those in Church leadership. But the difficult truth is that they are the exception, rather than the norm.

In fact, the Church may spend more effort criticizing your work in the Lord than defeating

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the culture of death. You will become keenly aware that your brother and sisters are not banging down your door to join you in the ministry. You will be ostracized. You will be slandered. Other Christians will apologize for your witness outside of abortion clinics. You will be condescended to and your work belittled. In those lonely times, those times when you are tempted to whisper, "I only I am left," what do you do? What do you do when the Elijah Syndrome comes upon you to afflict your bruised soul?



DAVID'S EXAMPLE

"That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man." (Ephesians 3:16)

DURING TIMES OF DEPRESSION, we need to follow the example of David in the story of Ziklag. David had returned from Gath where the Philistine king, Achish, had said to him, "Thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God." Achish had given the town of Ziklag to David. It was David's home base while he conducted raids against those who threatened Judah's southern borders (1 Sam 27). After one such raid, David returned to find Ziklag ransacked by the Amalekites. The women and children were captured, the town burned, and the spoils seized. When David's mighty men discovered that their families were kidnapped by the enemy, they turned against David and threatened to kill him.

What did David do? He encouraged himself in the Lord. He sought God. 1 Samuel 30:8 God told David to "pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

What can we glean from this example in David's life? There

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are times we have to command our souls to bless, praise, and worship God even though every fiber of our being protests against it.

Do you feel as David? Is your reputation ruined? Has your family suffered harm by the enemy? Is your home out of order? Have you lost your possessions to stay faithful in the battle? Have you been abandoned by those who once stood with you? Are you tempted to run like Elijah? You need to encourage yourself in the Lord. You need to know “this too will pass.” New seasons in your life will come. Eventually, there will be a time of refreshing that comes from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

Psalm 42:5 declares, “Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.” The Psalmist commands his struggling soul to hope in God and to praise Him in the midst of trials. If you are to maintain your sanity in the midst of the battle, every thought must be brought into subjection to Christ. To defeat the culture of death, you must go forth in the full armor of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-20).

PRIDE

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)

BEING ON THE FRONTLINES in any military engagement is wrought with peril. It is the same in spiritual warfare. Ministering in an advanced or conspicuous position in the battle makes you a target. And in this war, the battle rages from within and from without. There are the obvious risks and there are subtle dangers. One of the main ones is pride.

There are days when you may find yourself on a cold, hard concrete floor in a jail. There are other times when you may be invited to meet with dignitaries. People may start to think of you as a hero. The media may scramble to interview you as cameras roll and microphones are thrust into your face. One day you may even find yourself dining in a mansion, eating food prepared by a chef that is flown in from Paris. How do you handle all diverse circumstances?

"It is better to be a prepared man than have a prepared message."

The purpose for abortion ministry is to end the slaughter of children, lead the lost to Christ, and restore our nation in

righteousness. You need to have a sense of proportion when it comes to your own importance as you seek to implement this vision and mission. God word is clear. Whether you abound or are abased, you need to keep your eyes on the prize. Like the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

When I was a young minister, an old Georgia preacher sat me down to give me some sage advice. He told me two maxims I have never forgotten. First, "It is better to be a prepared man than have a prepared message." Then he went on to say, "As a minister you will be tried in three areas of life: poverty, obscurity, and success. Out of them all, the most dangerous is success."

When we struggle with poverty and obscurity we usually have the sense to rely on God. But "success" can lead to independence. It is an intoxicating elixir. It can convince us that no matter what we say and do in the battle (even if what we say and do fails to live up to God's standards) we must still be blessed of God. Caution: Bridge out ahead!

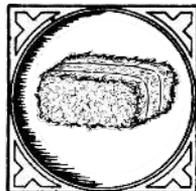
To continue in the battle, we must be wary of pride. If we are not careful, pride will cause us to consider ourselves “prolife celebrities.” We will end up believing our own press. Pride is what transformed Lucifer, the Light Bearer, into Satan, the Adversary. Since the Fall, mankind has taken on this debilitating trait of pride as we attempt to be a law and god unto ourselves. According to Proverbs, “a haughty spirit goes before a fall and pride before destruction.”

Remember, if the enemy cannot get us going bad (through overt sin) he will attempt to get us going good. Satan will tempt us with overt sin. When that fails, he will tempt us to sin through pride, self-righteousness, and a holier than thou attitude that is a stench in God’s nostrils (Isaiah 65:5).

There are some who seek to take credit for the work of others. There are “prolife organizations” that search the internet for prolife victories in order to raise funds off another’s labor. They have their reward on earth. However, it will not translate into an eternal reward. It is wood, hay, and stubble that will burn on the Great Day (1 Corinthians 3:12). They would do well to remember that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). If we exalt

ourselves, God will bring us low. If we humble ourselves, God will raise us up (Luke 14:11).

In light of these truths, you need to be cautious about banging your own drum. The Scriptures declare, “Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips” (Proverbs 27:2). This does not mean that you should refrain from promoting the Lord’s work through your ministry. The Apostle Paul let the early Church know where he was going, prayer needs, and even calls for financial aid. God did not rebuke or condemn him for doing these things. If people are encouraged, inspired and impacted by your ministry, you need to receive their thanks in the spirit that it is given. It is possible to do this without getting weird. In other words, beware of false humility. It is a mentality that exudes I’m humble and proud of it.



SKANDALON

“Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” (Matthew 18:7)

PRIDE makes us susceptible to another danger, *skandalon*. The definition for *skandalon* is, “A stick for bait (of a trap), generally a snare, a stumbling block, an offense.” We need to be mindful of taking offense, which leads to *skandalon*. Our Lord warned that we live in a world that provides ample opportunity to be offended.

The temptation to be offended increases when you take on child sacrifice and the shedding of innocent blood. God commands that you expose the unfruitful deeds of darkness (Ephesians 5:11). The world does not receive that admonishment anon with joy. It hates when its darkness is exposed. Jesus experienced this firsthand and declared, “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil” (John 7:7). If you follow the Lord’s example, you will experience similar treatment (John 15:18).

Abortion is the primary evil of this age. If you dare expose it, people will go out of their way to offend you. Your very presence will remind them of something they would rather

forget. Typically, they will search for “higher moral ground” in order to discredit your witness or to condemn your work. Most will feigned to be more upset with the graphic pictures you use than the reality of abortion itself.

To comprehend the snare that is skandalon more fully, picture a big game hunter searching for lions. The hunter digs a deep pit and covers it with jungle foliage. He hangs a piece of bloody meat over the middle of the trap. Instinctively, the animal pounces. He falls into the pit and ends up on the trophy wall of the hunter.

In a sense, the lion was justified according to instinct to seize the meat. Many times, you may feel justified too. But offenses that are not dealt with properly can render you bound as that animal. You must remember that it is not the attack, offense, or persecution that are the critical issues. Jesus assures us these situations will repeatedly occur. He guaranteed they will come. It is how you respond that makes all the difference in the world.

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When people hurt, betray, or lie about you, your instinct is to retaliate. You feel justified to pounce upon the skandalon. You bite and savor its juice only

to find it poisoning you. You will end up in a pit of despair and turned over to tormentors. Tragically, your enemies will still control your life (Matthew 18:21-35).

Offenses must be fiercely addressed. The love, forgiveness, and the truth of God's Word must be employed to extinguish the fiery darts of the enemy. If you fail, you will end up harboring deep resentment, which leads to a root of bitterness. Hebrew 12:15 warns, "Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."

John the Baptist and the apostles struggled with skandolan. When our Lord came to John to be baptized, John declared, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" Jesus responded, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he allowed Him" (Matthew 3:14, 15). When both John and Jesus submitted to the Father's will, John saw the Spirit of the living God fall upon the Jesus. This was a sign from heaven for John. He knew the true Christ had finally arrived. He could now go forth and fulfill his mission with great confidence.

John went on to prepare the way of the Lord. He faithfully discharged his duty to serve God's purposes in his generation. His obedience eventually landed him in a dark, dank prison. While languishing in prison, he learned that he was to be beheaded.

Imprisoned, abandoned, alone, and probably feeling dejected, it appears that he became offended at the Lord. Matthew 11:2, 3 reveals, "And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or *do we look for another?*"

Look for another? Who knew better than John the identity and mission of Christ? Why did he question his own witness? Why the lapse of judgment? Why did doubt arise in his heart? Perhaps, it had something to do with the implications of preparing the way of the "Coming One." Not only was John to decrease and the "Coming One" increase, John's witness would lead to martyrdom (John 3:30).

No fanfare. No tickertape parades. Not even a visit from the Lord to comfort him in his hour of need. "Why is this happening to me" might have been heard reverberating throughout the prison. John was in doubt. It was not just

because of prison or the threat of death, skandalon was stalking him. Would John pounce upon it and give in to the offense or would he remain faithful to His Lord?

Matthew 11:4-6 records our Lord's reply to his faithful, but offended servant, "Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. *And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.*'"

The apostles had opportunities to be offended as well. When Jesus challenged the multitude to "eat his flesh" and "drink his blood," many disciples "walked with Him no more" (John 6:66). Our Lord did not hesitate to immediately challenge His twelve apostles and ask them penetrating questions. He asked, "Does this offend you?" "Do you also want to go away?" It appears the Lord was of the mindset, "Do not let the door hit your backside as you depart." His discipleship training program was somewhat different than most Churches today.

"And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

Later in the Gospel of Mark, we learn of two disciples jockeying for position in the Lord's Kingdom. James and John requested, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." They were seeking to be near Jesus in His glory. They desired the privilege of sitting on his right hand and left. In other words, they were seeking to be great in His Kingdom.

The issue for Jesus was not that they sought this honor, even though it caused conflict with the other disciples. Jesus was more interested in James and John's *willingness to pay the price* to follow in His footsteps. He asked, "Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" (Mark 10:38) Jesus was not talking about a cup of blessing; His was a bitter cup. He was not talking about water baptism; His was a baptism of fire.

James and John answered in the affirmative. The Lord agreed. He let them know, however, that the privilege of sitting next to Him was not his to give. The honor was reserved "for those for whom it is prepared" (Mark 10:40). Jesus' greater concern was their commitment to servant hood.

Would James and John be able to endure the offenses, which would surely come? Would they still be in a position to serve God after tasting the cup of bitterness and being baptized by fire? Would James and John swallow the scandal? Would they endure scandal for His sake, which could lead to a root of bitterness? Jesus knew this could jeopardize their future service in His Kingdom (Mark 10:42-45).

In the battle against abortion, guarding against a root of bitterness is essential to maintain spiritual health. I know many who started well. At some point, however, they drank the bitter cup and experienced the baptism of fire. They became embittered against the Church for her lack of support and numerous other struggles. As a result, they became Lone Rangers for Christ. They rejected accountability, forsook fellowship with the saints, and ended up causing great harm to the cause of Christ and the little ones made in His image.

The Church in America is no doubt weak, but God still loves her. She needs reformation. And you cannot accomplish this noble task by abandoning her. You need to love what God loves and hate what God hates. This is the key to God's anointing that destroys the yoke (Hebrews 1:9; Isaiah 10:27).

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guarding against a root of
bitterness is essential to maintain
spiritual health.*

God loves His Church
and He hates the hands
that shed innocent blood
(Proverbs 6:17). This is
the divine tension you

are called to endure. To

remain a faithful son, soldier, and servant in God's
Kingdom, you must spit out the skandalon and avoid the
pit.



PERSONAL LIBERTIES

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s well-being.” (1 Corinthians 10:23, 24)

IN THE PASSAGE ABOVE, the Apostle Paul weighs in on what many consider “disputable matters.” In other words, there may be spiritual issues that have both a pro and con point of view. In context, Paul is addressing the liberties of Christians versus the conscience of others. The challenge is to lay down our liberties, if they cause others to stumble.

Some view the weak conscience of others as the “tyranny of the weaker brother.” They chaff at curtailing their debatable behavior just because others may object. Paul settles the matter by appealing to love. All things may indeed be lawful, but not all edify. He concludes with this admonishment, “Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved” (1 Corinthians 10:33).

Although there are disputable matters, there are also lines that one can cross that turns personal liberties into licentiousness. Proverbs 4:23 reminds us, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” There are many who started well in this battle, but ended badly. Their lives imploded from the inside out.

Some of them reasoned, “Since I sacrifice so much for the cause of Christ, the Lord won’t mind if I take some personal liberties.” These personal liberties led to sinful habits. The toll it took upon the souls of leaders, their families, and the work of the Lord was immense. In most cases, it gave ammunition to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme His Holy Name (Romans 2:24).

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.”

You deal with a crafty enemy that knows our entrance into the battle brings increased stress

and pressure. It is only normal to seek solace and sweet release in the midst of struggle. God understands this need as well. At times, God had his disciples retreat from the rigors of ministry to recharge their batteries (Mark 6:31). The issue is not one of needing rest or relief from stress. The issue is turning to sinful pleasures that grant temporary respite,

but lead to long-term ruin. The pleasure may be alcohol, drugs, pornography, an illicit affair, divorce for non-biblical grounds, or a host of other temptations. These sins can sweep you away in a flood of dissipation.

The Scriptures teach that our enemy is like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour. The Apostle Peter admonished us to be vigilant, to make sure we do not give him an opening to exploit (1 Peter 5:8). The Apostle Paul concurred, "Give no place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27). Our Lord faced the same onslaught from the enemy. He overcame these attacks by wielding the Sword of the Spirit, "It is written" (Matthew 4:1-11). He remained obedient to the Father's will and declared, "The ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me" (John 14:30).

You are not perfect like the Lord. It is completely understandable why the enemy would not find a resting place in the Lord to exploit. Though you will never reach sinless perfection in this world, you can live a blameless life. You can keep short accounts with God. Do not let the sun go down on our wrath (Ephesians 4:26). If you violate God's law, honor God's law by humbly repenting. Being in right standing with God is paramount if you want to achieve longevity in the battle.

I know this passage of scripture is sometimes overused and abused, but it is a must, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and

As much as lies within you, you need to guard your strengths and shore up your weaknesses.

just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:9, 10). The key to remaining faithful in the battle is to continually walk in the light, have fellowship with God and His Church, and the blood of Christ will keep cleansing you from all sin (1 John 1:7).

These admonishments concerning personal liberties need to be heeded. Those who engage the culture of death will be targeted by the Evil One. He will exploit any opening in your character, marriage, family, Church, etcetera. The purpose is to bring as much chaos, strife, and harm to you as he can. Revelation 12:17 declares, "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

As much as lies within you, you need to guard your strengths and shore up your weaknesses. You need to resist

temptation and say no to sin. Make sure your family life is in order. Husbands, love your wives. Wives, submit to your husbands. Children, obey your parents in the Lord (Ephesians 5:22-33, 6:1-3). Be an active member in a local Church. Have accountability in your life. These actions are crucial if you plan to endure in the battle to end baby murder.



BEARING THE REPROACH

“Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach” (Hebrews 13:12, 13).

IN SALVATION, Christ identifies with His people. We are one in the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17). He who knew no sin, became sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). In baptism, however, God’s people have the opportunity to publicly identify with Jesus. Water baptism is both an act of obedience and a public proclamation. It demonstrates that we are devoted to following our Lord Jesus Christ. It represents that we are not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16). It tells the world, “Our faith is non-negotiable nor for sale!”

Christ bore our reproach, sins, and failures. Once saved, we are to bear *His* reproach in a world filled with sin, demons, and darkness. When we take on the evil of child sacrifice, we can be certain the world, and even many in the Church, will shun us. They will not consider us mainstream.

James 4:4 warns, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” Those who refuse to bear His reproach do not realize that their silence in the face of evil puts them at odds with God. G K Chesterton addressing this predicament stated, “Unless a man becomes the enemy of evil, he will not even become its slave, but rather its champion. God Himself will not help us to ignore evil but only to defy and to defeat it!”

Moreover, the world will try to limit your effectiveness. It will employ insults. People will resort to name calling. Since they cannot deal with the content of your message, they will employ ad hominem arguments. They will make personal attacks rather than assail your biblical stand. They spew out labels such as radical, extremist, fanatic, and rightwing terrorist ad nauseam. Their purpose is to demonize you. Erecting false devils can be just as harmful as

“Unless a man becomes the enemy of evil, he will not even become its slave, but rather its champion. God Himself will not help us to ignore evil but only to defy and to defeat it!”

-G.K. CHESTERTON

worshipping false gods. According to their worldview, tearing babies apart in the womb and throwing them away like garbage is not extreme. No. Your attempt to end the American holocaust is radicalism on steroids.

Sadly, many in the Church agree with the world's distorted version of extremism. The standard of Christianity has dropped so low in America, that when God's people attempt to biblically abolish abortion they are considered odd. They need to be reminded that extremism in the defense of life, liberty, and property is no vice. And moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.

Some have asked the question, "Is the Church in America *prolife* enough?" Honestly, that is the wrong question. Instead, we should ask the question posed by Abolish Human Abortion, "Is the Church in America *Christian* enough?" It is safe to say that the majority in the American Church have responded incorrectly to the plight of God's little ones. The Church has largely ignored or minimized the death of their preborn neighbors.

As a result, one third of an entire generation has been devoured by this monster. Close to sixty million have perished and the casualty count continues to mount with each passing day. Clearly, one of the main reasons why the

*Is the Church in America
Christian enough?*

Church has failed to intervene is the fear of bearing the reproach.

Maintaining reputation, comfort, money, influence, power, and popularity are more of a priority than ending the murder of the preborn.

To a certain degree, the wariness to get involved in rescuing babies is understandable. Most of us do not want to be branded an outcast. Mob psychology and the unspoken law of the pack helps many to avoid becoming disenfranchised by society. This collective mentality governs most people's lives today. Who wants to be made a spectacle? Who really wants to violate the status quo, especially alone? Who wants to bear the reproach by getting their hands dirty to end the scourge of abortion? Isn't that someone else's ministry? Seriously, who wants to paint a large target on their back and bring more grief into their lives?

But what does biblical Christianity look like? This is how the Apostle Paul described the Christian life:

For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. We *are* fools for Christ's sake, but ye *are* wise in

Christ; we *are* weak, but ye *are* strong;
ye *are* honourable, but we *are* despised. Even unto this
present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are
naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling
place; And labour, working with our own hands:
being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer
it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth
of the world, *and are* the offscouring of all things unto
this day.

1 Corinthians 4:9-13

According to Paul, being a spectacle is the Christian norm as
men consider God's people "the filth of the world."
Amazingly, Paul instructed the Church to imitate him (1
Corinthians 11:1).

The author of Hebrews affirmed the same perspective:

But call to remembrance the former days, in which,
after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of
afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock
both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst
ye became companions of them that were so used. For
ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took
joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in
yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an

enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Hebrew 10:32-36

In the midst of the reproach, remember that Jesus declared,

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

“Blessed are you

when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11, 12). The Apostle Paul added, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

No one in their right minds *wants* to experience pain. We would all prefer affirmation, acceptance, and an occasional atta-boy slap on the back. But at what price? Murdered babies? Our country’s freedom? Our faith? The wrath of the Lord? True faith and godly courage are essential if we are to

abolish abortion . If you plan on enduring in this battle, you must be willing to follow our Lord outside the camp. You must bear His reproach. As you do, you must keep in mind that one day you will drop the cross of self-denial. The reproach will be removed from you forever and it will be exchanged for God's unspeakable joy that is full of glory.



RECIPROCATION

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:7-9).

YOU PROBABLY KNOW that we battle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, and the rulers of darkness of this age (Ephesians 6:12) Moreover, it is essential that you also know that this struggle is not primarily about you or your personal welfare. Even though enemies, detractors, and those who abandon you in the battle may impugn your motives, criticize your character, condemn your tactics, and attack you personally. If you are obeying God’s will, try not to take it personally.

Jesus taught, “He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me” (Luke 10:16). As you call the Church and state to interpose on behalf of the preborn to establish justice, they will most likely reject you for your obedience in the Lord. According to Jesus, they are not rejecting you; they are

rejecting Him. That is, if you are truly representing his heart and message.

Thankfully, His shoulders are much larger than yours to handle their snubs.

Most of what you do in your abortion ministry will most likely not be reciprocated.

In this battle, you should have proper inlets and outlets operating in your life. You should know how to receive humbly and give generously. When a Christian pours out service in the name of the Lord, he often receives a blessing in return. This principle is called “sowing and reaping.” Reaping what you have sown is an incontrovertible truth in God’s Kingdom. But reaping is somewhat tempered in abortion ministry. Yes, you will certainly reap eternal rewards. Just do not expect much co-labor, resources, or appreciation to be heaped on you in the here and now.

Most of what you do in your abortion ministry (helping, serving, training, praying, and blessing others) will most likely not be reciprocated. Due to a variety of reasons, those you have helped, may not help you in return.

For many Christians, this hard truth is a deal breaker. But it should not be. Nowhere in the Bible does it say to do good so man will bless you. In fact, you are told not to do your

good works so as to be seen by men. If you do, you will lose our reward.

Matthew 6:1-4 reads:

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

According to *Strong's Commentary*, "alms" mean charity, pity, mercy. You should bless others with charity, pity, and mercy without thought of being noticed or appreciated.

In contrast, Matthew 5:16 mentions that good works should be "seen by men. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." When these two passages are taken

together you learn, “The high ideal of the disciple of Christ is to let his light shine “before men” ...and yet to be indifferent to their praise or even their opinion.” I might add, be indifferent to their rejection or refusal to reciprocate when you need help.

Minister so that your good works are performed sincerely. Do them with a view to glorify God and benefit others. The truth that “God knows” should keep you going in the ministry. In His time and in His way, God will vindicate and reward. No matter how often you are rejected, keep serving, keep loving, keep sowing, keep helping, keep being obedient to our Lord, His Church, and to those that need your ministry.



AVOID FOOLISH COMPARISONS

“For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

(2 Corinthians 10:12)

THE APOSTLE PAUL taught that there are different members, but one Body of Christ (Romans 12:4–5). Members exercise different functions in the Body. If God has called you to a governing office in the Church, the Holy Spirit will anoint you for the task. Ephesians 4:16 says, “From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” In this, we understand that God prizes both the individual and the corporate Body of Christ.

There is a uniformity as well as diversity within the Body of Christ. The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable (Romans 11:29). Once God places a gift or calling upon an individual, He will never remove it. People may disobey and refuse to function in God’s gifting, but they will be held accountable before God as stewards of His gifts.

In other passages, the Apostle Paul compared the Church to a human body. He listed certain parts of the body and their specific roles, like the seeing eye and the hearing ear (1 Corinthians 12:15-19). He expounded on the importance of the various parts as it pertains to the healthy function of the entire body. One part, he surmised, cannot do it all. He explained, "If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing" (1 Corinthians 12:17). It takes all parts working together to build up the Church, equip the saints for the work of ministry, advance the Kingdom of God and His great salvation in the earth.

This short mention of the makeup of the Church is meant to help reinforce Paul's admonishment for avoiding foolish comparisons. I know some in their pursuit of ending abortion can get ensnared by this temptation. They wish they could preach like so and so, write like so and so, function in the body like so and so, or have a greater ability in the discipline of apologetics like so and so. The list goes on, but the point is made.

It is certainly good to hone your personal gifts. It is also important to know that God can use others to assist you in the exercise of your gifts. God can use them to inspire, motivate, and challenge you. Proverbs 27:17 assures us,

“As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

It is foolish and sometimes sinful, however, if you

make reckless comparisons. You could end up envying others or be reduced to self-loathing. False comparisons can demoralize you in other ways. If you lift someone on a pedestal, you may inadvertently put yourself down. This could lead to debilitating thoughts and behavior. If you exalt yourself and put others down, it could lead to arrogance, pride, and a condescending spirit. If that case, God will resist and bring your haughtiness low.

If you lift someone on a pedestal, you may inadvertently put yourself down.

Self-depreciation or conceit will not produce a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7) or keep you strong in the battle (Ephesians 6:10). It will only lead to other vices that will hinder the work of the Lord (James 3:16).

Remember, God’s gifts are not earned. Yet, you are still accountable as a steward. They must be exercised for the glory of God and the benefit of others. You must also remember gifts are given, but godly fruit is grown (Galatians 5:22, 23). Men are amused by gifts, while God is impressed with character. Godly fruit is produced through the

sanctifying process of the Holy Spirit. As a Christian, your goal in life should be the same as John the Baptist. God must increase and you must decrease (John 3:30).



MICAH MANDATE

CHRISTIANS excuse their apathy regarding abortion by claiming “it’s not my calling” or “I don’t feel led.” Yet, we are all called to “do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). God expects our gifting, calling, and position in the Church to be subservient to His call to establish justice. Amos 5:23, 24 declares, “Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.” Here we discover the true worship of God is not just limited to singing hymns of praise on Sunday, it includes establishing justice and righteousness in the land.

Our gifts should be instrumental in bringing about the end of abortion

(Ephesians 4:12). Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for ignoring the Micah Mandate, “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: *justice* and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone” (Matthew 23:23). Notice, the

God expects our gifting, calling, and position in the Church to be subservient to His call to establish justice.

Lord does not want us to neglect our families, Church, or other responsibilities. He just wants to make sure our priorities are in order. We must fulfill the Micah Mandate to establish justice, mercy, and faith or we will be guilty of failing the Lord like the Pharisees.

There is something for everyone to do.

The story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of Jerusalem serve as a great biblical example to highlight these truths. First, the Church must move into action wherever or whenever there are exposed areas in the “wall” of a nation. It is not safe to allow the enemies intent on harm to exploit any breaches in the walls. It is imperative the breaches be repaired.

Second, members of the body of Christ must work together to rebuild the walls and restore the burnt gates. Nehemiah 3:8 records, “Next to him Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs. Also next to him Hananiah, one of the perfumers, made repairs; and they fortified Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall.” Goldsmiths and perfumers were not “called” to be masons and carpenters. They were not trained or skilled in those trades. Did that excuse them from the work? Of course not. Nehemiah 4:13-20 reveals they had to become proficient in the use of sword, spear, bow, trowel, and trumpet— the tools and

weapons necessary to defend the nation, rebuild the walls, restore the gates, and sound the alarm. They labored

together until the weak and exposed areas were fortified and the nation was secure.

*Clearly, our abominations
have reached heaven.*

So it is in our day. Thanks to a succession of lawless SCOTUS opinions, our spiritual and moral walls are broken down. Foes from within our American household are rotting our national conscience. They tell us women can kill babies, homosexuals can marry, sexual predators can use a little girl's bathroom, and potential Islamic terrorists can immigrate. And now they want to draft our daughters in the military. Enemies abroad are salivating as they conspire to exploit these exposed areas to further their agenda against our nation.

Clearly, our abominations have reached heaven. God's judgment is upon the land and far too many Christians still refuse to stand in the gap and make up the hedge (Ezekiel 22:30, 31). Barbarians are streaming through our burning gates as the Church plans another potluck. Christian duty demands you interpose on some level. The issue is not, where are you on the wall; the issue is, are you on the wall.

The parable of the Good Samaritan speaks directly to this issue (Luke 10:25-37). The priest and the Levite serve as types of Church leadership. God ordained them for ministry. They both had specific religious offices to execute. Yet, they did not love their neighbor as God commanded. Maybe the Levite and the priest did not “feel led” to rescue. Perhaps, they were not “called” to the ditch ministry.

Many in the Church today seem to gravitate toward this same mentality. As a result, they unwittingly or knowingly cast themselves in the role of the Levite and priest. Even though, they may have a true calling to preach, pray, write, or worship in the choir, their preborn neighbor lies in the ditch bleeding to death. It was the one without a “calling,” the despised, half-breed Samaritan, who rescued his neighbor. Jesus commended the Good Samaritan. He challenges all of us to go and do likewise.

I do not believe the priest and the Levite hated the man lying helpless and defenseless on the side of the road. I believe they just did not care enough to do what was necessary to save his life. The same is true today for most in the American Church.

It is not that the Church hates the preborn. It is not that the Church wants them to suffer dismemberment and be thrown away like trash. It is not that the Church abhors the countless fathers and mothers who commit the brutal act. The Church does not despise those who sacrifice their children to Moloch. The problem is not an emotion called hate; the problem is apathy, lethargy, and indifference among God's people.

It is blatant violation of the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). Biblically, it is also a lack of love. Love, you must remember, is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:10) When lawlessness increases in a land, Jesus warned, "the love of many will grow cold. (Matthew 24:12).

Christ warned, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not

The problem is not an emotion called hate; the problem is apathy, lethargy, and indifference among God's people.

do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." (Matthew 25:45). The implications are disturbing. Jesus identifies with the outcast, disenfranchised, and vulnerable of society. In our generation, the most vulnerable is the preborn child scheduled for unlawful execution. Clearly, Jesus identifies with the fatherless child decimated by

abortion. After all, He is a Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5).

What the Church does or doesn't do for these little ones reflects to a certain degree our treatment of Christ. The Church would have to contravene Jesus' own testimony to think otherwise. The slaughter has gone on for decades and the Church, for the most part, still does not care enough to end it. This lack of loving obedience must end and if we are going to compare ourselves to anything, let us compare ourselves to the Lord and the example He gave us through the parable of the Good Samaritan.



DEALING WITH FACTIONS AND DIVISIONS

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

ABORTION is the dominant evil in our world and therefore, the most polarizing. Once you put your hand to end this holocaust, dealing with divisions and factions will become a part of your life. A faction is a group within a larger group that has its own set of interests or beliefs. A division is when a difference of opinion leads to a split in the group. As you minister to end abortion, the counsel of Christ that a “house divided against itself will not stand” will take on a whole new meaning (Matthew 12:25).

Paul reminded the Church at Corinth, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Satan is limited to a few schemes that he repackages to deceive every generation (Ephesians 6:11). He employs these schemes to hinder the work of God. Paul speaks of the likelihood of this occurrence, “Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but *Satan hindered us*” (1 Thessalonians 2:18).

One of Satan's most effective ploys is to "separate, divide, and conquer." He tries to distract us from our work by causing us to focus on lesser

Once you put your hand to end this holocaust, dealing with divisions and factions will become a part of your life.

issues. Good can become the enemy of the best. The enemy is adept at using the tactic of deflection. Usually these deflections concern other people, organizations, or ministries who may have different priorities, messages, and actions that differ than you.

If the difference leads to division, people may need a loving rebuke, if they are sinning against you. The hope, of course, is they will repent making reconciliation possible (Luke 17:3). On the other hand, the Lord does not want you to get bogged down about what others are doing or not doing. Jesus told Peter when he was concerned about John's obedience and destiny, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me" (John 21:21, 22).

By tempting you to scrutinize every little thing said or done by others, Satan can subtly shift your focus. Often the differences are not even sin, but disputable matters. Yet,

Satan exploits them in the hopes that we will begin to tear each other apart. If you are busy quarreling with others, you have less time to clash with his murderous rampage.

God's Word commands, "Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). That means you do not go out of your way to cause factions and divisions. You must recall the seven things God hates. Not only does He "hate hands that shed innocent blood," He also hates those who "sow discord amongst the brethren" (Proverbs 6.16-19).

If divisions come in the exercise of your faith, however, because you love God and your neighbor as ourselves — so be it. Paul revealed, "For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you" (1 Corinthians 11:19). This comes with taking territory.

Paul knew this first hand. Do you recall his confrontation with Peter? Here was the new Apostle on the block taking on the heavy weight Apostle of the faith. Peter was in the wrong. He was making sinful distinctions, creating factions, and reestablishing old divisions that God had abolished in the New Testament. Paul withstood him to his face and publicly rebuked him. He called Peter and the other Jews who were carried away with hypocrisy to repentance (Galatians 2:10-16).

*“Keep the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace”
(Ephesians 4:3).*

On another occasion, there was a sharp contention between Paul and Barnabas.

Initially, it was Barnabas who prepared the way for Paul to be received into the Church after his miraculous salvation experience (Acts 9). Many were on high alert. They were suspicious and convinced it was a trick to prosecute the brethren. Barnabas alleviated their fears and convinced them of the authenticity of Paul’s conversion.

Later this ministry team of Paul and Barnabas had a parting of the ways. Though hands were laid on them and the Holy Spirit stated, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” they eventually separated for a time. They became divided. The situation was over another laborer, John, whose surname was Mark. He was a part of their team and went AWOL on a mission trip.

Later, when they were planning another mission trip, Barnabas wanted to restore John Mark to the team and Paul declined. It was understandable for Barnabas. His name means *Son of Consolation*. Paul, however, was adamant. Never again will this deserter be a part of our missionary journeys.

After a while, when the steam disappeared and cooler heads prevailed, God restored the relationships. They all ended up working together to further the cause of Christ in their generation. Some theologians believe John whose surname was Mark was reconciled with Paul based upon 2 Timothy 4:11, which states, “Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.” The point is God’s Word does not hide the factions, divisions, and the breaking of relationships that happened amongst God’s people. You need to know, neither will it be hidden from you.

When confronted with a faction, your first instinct should be to intervene as a peacemaker. Jesus told us, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). One of the fruits of being a true son of God is the desire to make peace. It is not keep the peace, but *make peace*. There is a enormous difference between the two.

If a division has developed because people are upset with your work of abolishing abortion, you need to be careful about how you respond. Defending yourself against an unwarranted attack can widen the breach instead of repairing it. Sometimes, it is more beneficial to bear the hurt

and injustice rather than to disrupt or possibly hurt the work of the Lord.

One of the fruits of being a true son of God is the desire to make peace.

A true shepherd will lay down his life for the sheep. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. *Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?*” (1 Corinthians 6:7) Sometimes the better part of valor in this battle is to let the guilty party rail. You must trust God, continue to do good, and rest in the knowledge that God will vindicate in His own time. Jesus promised, “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:10). Eventually, you can be assured that those who are approved by God will shine forth.

If the individuals involved in the division will not be entreated, or refuse to go away after you ignore them, your last resort is to publicly announce, “The Lord judge between me and thee.” It is a serious pronouncement, but one that is sometimes necessary. I have had to do this a few times in the ministry. Each time, it brought major judgment on those who had sowed discord amongst the brethren. This is not a boast,

but a careful, somber reminder that you better be on God's side when it comes to factions and divisions.

Lastly, unity is a fruit, rather than a goal to achieve. Each time the Church goes after unity for unity's sake, she distances herself from its realization. Psalm 133:1-3 declares:

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren
to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil
upon the head, Running down on the beard, The
beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his
garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending
upon the mountains of Zion; For there
the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.

The blessing of unity does help to prevent factions from developing and divisions from occurring. This is a blessed gift from God. It comes when God's people get lost in the vision and mission of the Lord. I served in the military with the 101st Airborne. I have also been in fulltime ministry for 35 years. Yet, the greatest unity I ever experienced was when the Church crossed the line of obedience and stormed the gates of hell to defend their preborn neighbor.

People from various denominations that normally would not have anything to do with each other, locked hearts and

shouldered the work together. The blessing of corporate unity drove baby murder from their cities. God's promise came true. He saw unity and commanded the blessing of life.



ROOT OF ALL EVIL

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (1 Timothy 6:10).

THERE ARE MANY competitors vying for the souls of men. God’s Word places the god of mammon at the top of the list. Jesus stated, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matthew 6:24).

One of the major travesties in the “prolife movement” is the practice of raising “dishonest gain” off the broken, bloody bodies of babies (1 Peter 5:2). The King James version calls dishonest gain “filthy lucre.” The avarice of man combined with the temptation of a bribe can establish and prolong injustice. Deuteronomy 16:19 warns, “You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous.”

We know one of the major roots that motivate the merchants of death in the abortion industry is the blood money they

receive for their “services.” Misguided parents hire paid assassins to murder their innocent children. This grisly trade comes complete with a curse. Deuteronomy 27:25

For many Churches, the possible loss of nickels and noses in their buildings convinces them to not get involved.

states, “Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person. And all the people shall say, Amen!” This is the sin of commission. People are violating God’s holy commandment, “You shall not murder” (Exodus 20:13).

For many Churches, the possible loss of nickels and noses in their buildings convinces them to not get involved. Some may count the cost, but most decline to pay the price (Luke 14:28). They refuse to interpose and save their neighbor. James 4:17 reminds us, “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” The sin of omission, committed by the Church, contributes greatly to the suffering of the little ones. Perhaps, it is greater in scope than the sin of commission committed by the world. In other words, more of the Church ignores the brutal act than those who commit it.

There are some in the “prolife movement” that consider their involvement in economic terms. They are convinced there is

a limited amount of manpower, resources, and finances available to support their work. As a result, they come up with schemes to make sure they get a piece of the “prolife pie.”

God forbid, you get entangled with that sickening mentality. God is not limited to our puny perspective of a “prolife pie.” He has the ability to bake more “pies,” if needed to support the abolishment of abortion. Where there is true vision of God, there is provision from God. You should not stoop to slick marketing campaigns to fleece the flock of God.

No doubt, there is a legitimate need for resources. It takes leadership, laborers, and finances to maintain the army of God. Although a need for resources is not sin, you must guard your heart. Keep your motives pure and your actions godly. If there is a genuine need, go to God in prayer. He promised to meet your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19). Also, it is not sin to make known to others a valid need for resources. You are a co-laborer in the Lord’s fields and God provides.

Romans 12:6-8 states:

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us

prophecy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; *he who gives, with liberality*; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

As you distance yourself from the root of all evil, keep in mind the urgency of your ministry. Babies are not dying so you can raise funds. They are not dying so you can start a new ministry. They are not dying so you can have a platform to preach or teach.

Babies are not dying so you can raise funds.

If there was ever a ministry to end, a cause to cease, and a work to wipe out, it is this one. Be wise stewards therefore with the resources God grants you in His service. Put yourself out of this ministry as soon as possible so that the bloodshed stops and our nation is restored to righteousness (Proverbs 14:34).



FINAL EXHORTATION

“The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

ONE of the major admonishments, Reverend Flip Benham, former National Director of Operation Rescue National/ Operation Save America, constantly repeated was, “Make sure you burn on the oil of the Holy Ghost, rather than the wick of your own life.”

God did not create you to absorb all the evil of this world. You must seek the Holy and Just One who has already conquered it. Your responsibility is to be led by the Holy Spirit, be governed by the Gospel, and obedient unto suffering, if need be. The Bible assures us, “The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits (Daniel 11:32b). Your duty is to deliver God’s Word to our bloodstained, perverted nation while trusting God to watch over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

Yes, you must trust God, continue to do good, and burn on the oil of the Holy Ghost. As the cares of this world attempt

*This duty us yours.
The results belong to God.*

to choke your witness, cast
your cares upon the Lord.

This duty is yours. The
results belong to God. Keep pressing on to the high call and
prize in Jesus' name till baby murder is driven back to hell
from whence it came!

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