

The Self-Destruction of a Nation

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." These magnificent words, penned by Thomas Jefferson over two hundred years ago in the Declaration of Independence, laid foundational truths which have shaped the Constitution and laws of the United States that make our country so great. But in the last thirty years of American history, one faction of our society has been mercilessly denied their rights as American citizens. Over forty million¹ of the most innocent and helpless Americans, the unborn, have been slaughtered in the name of "choice" since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. This legal murder of unborn innocents—abortion—denies each unborn child his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, thus contributing to the demise of our society as a whole.

The first fundamental right of every person, life, is a gift of the Creator of the universe the moment that person is conceived. Although the debate rages over what classifies someone as a person, Psalm 139:13-16 reveal God's thoughts on the issue. In these verses we read of the psalmist's praise to God for His marvelous work of human creation inside a mother's womb saying, "...thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought..." God alone, as the Giver of life, has the right to take human life. In Old Testament law, He condemns one of murder who causes the death of an unborn child!

Not only biblical, but also scientific reasoning proves that life does indeed begin at conception. The scientific definition of conception is "the moment when the egg is fertilized by

¹ "When Does Life Begin?" *National Right to Life Committee*. National Right to Life Committee. 24 Oct. 2006. <NRLC@nrlc.org>

the sperm, bringing into existence the zygote, which is a genetically distinct individual."²

Once fertilization has taken place, a new person exists with a unique genetic code! Former abortionist, Dr. Anthony Levatino, testifies of the reality of the life and personhood of an unborn child, saying, "As a doctor, you know that these are children; you know that these are human beings with arms and legs and heads and they move around and are very active....you see children in there—hearts beating, arms flinging."³

What then will happen to a society which loses its regard for life and permits the killing of innocent individuals? Naivety or defiance alone would cause one to assert that the death of 1.3 million babies each year in a holocaust of convenience does not affect our culture. A society in which a vulnerable life is permitted to be snuffed out at the will of another is in danger risks degenerating into a society which life is not valued at all.

As one receives life from God, he is secondly endowed with the right of liberty. God has given men liberty since the beginning of time, never forcing anyone to obey Him. In Joshua 24:15 God says to Israel, "...choose you this day whom ye will serve..." thus leaving the ultimate choice of obedience up to them. However, when defining liberty, people make the fatal mistake of excluding moral accountability and responsibility. We must realize that our choices bring about certain consequences. Ultimately, every person must answer to God for his actions. If, for example, a woman becomes pregnant because of immoral behavior, she must accept the consequences of her lifestyle, realizing that a right to an abortion does not constitute liberty.

As America continues to deny liberty to those who cannot defend themselves, she is unwittingly endangering the continuation of freedom in our land. An innocent child who is

² Alcorn, Randy. *ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments*. Oregon: Multnomah, 2000.

³ Levatino, Anthony. *Pro-Life Action League*. Pro-Life Action League. 24, Oct. 2006.
<<http://www.prolifeaction.org/providers/levatino.htm>>

robbed of life is being refused any taste of liberty! Any society which justifies denying liberty to some is no longer a society which guarantees liberty for all!

Thirdly, our Declaration of Independence articulates the right to the pursuit of happiness. Every person is created with an innate desire to be happy, his earliest actions motivated by this desire. God knew that we will never be truly happy unless we turn to Him for fulfillment. Jesus Christ speaks in John 5:11 expressing His desire that our "...joy might be full."

Every unborn child has the right to pursue happiness. In our culture it is deemed acceptable for a mother to pursue *her* definition of happiness to the extent of killing her child if his existence gets in her way! Tragically, as many women testify, abortion does not bring joy. One woman who underwent an abortion thinking it would make her happy, afterward had this message:

"Girls, women...PLEASE, just think a little harder....The way I feel right now is not something I would EVER wish on someone. Make the choice NOT to feel this way, to NOT to end a life...that could be so beautiful, like my child's should have been. My child's tiny hands that I will never get to touch."⁴

This heartbroken woman represents the majority of women who have had abortions. How sad that so many women continue to believe the lie that by precluding their baby's chance to pursue happiness in life they themselves can be happy! How terrible that this lie is supported and permitted in our society!

One by one the hearts of precious little ones are being stopped by abortion. Each victim is a helpless American who has just been deprived of his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. While our government sanctions the slaying of thousands of babies each day, it is undoubtedly failing miserably in its crucial obligation to protect the rights of each of its citizens. Considering the controversial issue of abortion irrelevant to our lives, we hesitate to raise an outcry against it. However, a society cannot long remain free and happy which fails to uphold its people's God-given rights. If we continue in our apathy, the depths to which our nation can plunge have no bounds.

⁴ "Inside the Abortion Clinic". Abort73. 22 Nov. 2005. 24 Oct. 2006. <<http://abort73.com/HTML/l-G-2-inside.html>>