

The Abortion Debate

Many conversant with the abortion debate know of a girl named Ana Rosa Rodriguez. Ana was a 32-week old fetus when her mother Rosa went to a NYC abortion clinic where Dr. Abu Hyatt performed abortions in 1991. Rosa was just 20 years old and at one point told the doctor she had changed her mind and didn't want to go through with the procedure. The doctor said that it was too late to stop. His assistants sedated her and when she awoke, she was told that the abortion was incomplete – that she should come back tomorrow.

That evening Rosa felt terrible pain and had severe bleeding. Her mother took her to a hospital where Ana Rosa was born – healthy and sound *except* she was missing her right arm which the abortion doctor had torn off the previous day.

Abu Hyatt would later go to jail for the botched abortion as well as other malpractice violations.

Society won't tolerate the maiming of babies or the death of the mother who goes to get an abortion . . . but somehow the abortion itself is okay, as long as you make sure the child is dead. At least such would appear to be the logic of the political left.

When I hear or see people cheering for abortion at political rallies, I believe something fundamental has left the room. There are a few core issues that get lost amidst the noise of political victory and celebration. In a spirit of trying to promote understanding, I would like to propose a few questions to pro-abortion advocates so that they might gain a little understanding of where pro-lifers are coming from.

First, instead of holding out abortion as the grand 'fixer' should we rather not encourage people to re-evaluate their lifestyle choices that somehow make the killing of a baby seem like the best option? Secondly, instead of cheering for abortion like a sports team, could someone on the pro-choice side occasionally make the argument that the men in our society need to be told to be men and take responsibility for the children they father?

How many women have gotten abortions because they felt pressured by their boyfriends or found themselves in unstable relationships where they believed they could not raise a child? Certainly, many men will bear a greater weight of blame in the judgment for such responsibility-fleeing behavior.

Further, before we celebrate the next legislative gain, can we recognize that life is filled with moral choices involving lines between good and evil? The moral law embedded in our world does not allow its violation without consequence. When a woman with a conscience aborts her baby, something of her own maternal instinct dies within her and leaves her with guilt and either regret or a calloused soul. The womb was given to nurture and grow life, not to be a place where a practitioner can come and lop off a limb or end a beating heart.

Jesus once summed up the moral law when He said: 'Do unto others as you would have done unto you.' [Matt. 7:12]. Abortion is incompatible with such a position. Ronald Reagan weighed in stating: 'I've noticed that everyone for abortion has already been born.'

These words of John Piper aptly summarize the issue for me: 'The exceeding evil of sin is not the harm it does to us or to others (though that is great). The wickedness of sin is owing to the implicit disdain for God.'

When abortion is cheered, respect for God, the giver of all good things, has left the room.