

Rise Up And Build

"So They said, 'Let us rise up and build,' Then they set their hands to do this good work," Neh. 2:18

August 9, 2020

Redefining Words

"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil, who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter" (Isa. 5:20).

This scripture belongs to a general context wherein God repeatedly pronounced a "woe" upon His Own apostate people who were contemporary with the prophet Isaiah. Without saying more about the contextual background of the Scripture just cited, we simply observe that it seems so strange that the **Lord's** people could become so distorted in their spiritual perceptions that they would "*call evil good, and good evil!*" Surely something is out of kilter when darkness is preferred over light, when bitter is preferred over sweet, and when religious people "*call evil good!*"

However, in the overall scheme of things, there is really "*nothing new under the sun*" (Eccl. 1:9). Man today is drawn away by the same lusts, desires, and ambitions as in the past. And it is still common for people to seek to justify sinful conduct by calling "*evil good, and good evil.*" And one very effective way to make "*evil*" appear "*good*" is to simply **re-define** evil conduct by using words which convey a tone of moral uprightness.

One issue which illustrates the point just made, and which should arouse righteous indignation in every God-fearing heart is legalized abortion. It is nothing short of legalized **murder!** Since the 1973 Supreme Court Roe V. Wade abortion decision, the number of human lives legally slain in America is many times the total number of adults, adolescents, and children who lost their lives due to the extermination policies of Nazi Germany in World War II. By the stroke of a pen, the U.S. Supreme Court set in motion the process whereby innocent human beings can be legally dismembered, burned to death by a saline solution, or sucked out of the womb. Call it whatever you like, abortion still involves the intentional killing of human beings!

Due to legalized abortion (murder) we are quickly substituting a culture of death for what has been a society of life.

As of Friday, Aug. 7, 2020 over 25,578,082 babies have been slaughtered **this** year in the U.S., and the number is increasing minute by minute! Since the infamous 1973 Woe V

Wade decision over 61 million babies have been legally aborted (murdered) in the United States. But where is moral outrage? I mean, where is the **widespread** moral outrage?

Yes, as a society, we have “come a long way” — but in the wrong direction. But how can an act so callused, so heinous, so sinful, and so repulsive become so widely accepted in a generally religious nation, whose own **Declaration of Independence** affirms that “all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among them are **life**, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?” Such is tolerated because we have allowed people to get away with re-defining **sin** in such a way as to “*call evil good, and good evil.*” Let me illustrate the point by asking a few questions, such as: Have you ever heard an abortion advocate **say** “I believe in murder?” Have you ever heard an abortion advocate **say** “I believe living babies should be dismembered while in the womb and then have all their body parts sucked out by a vacuum apparatus?” Have you heard an abortion advocate **say** “I think babies ought to be burned to death (pickled) by a saline solution injected into the amniotic fluid?” In short, have you heard a single abortion advocate **say** “I believe innocent babies ought to be murdered in ways too gruesome to inflict upon any animal?” The answer to all these questions is a resounding “No!” However, that is exactly what abortion advocates **believe** ought to be done to unwanted, unborn, totally innocent babies! And this is exactly what is happening many, many times each day in America! I am thankful, however, to be able to say that the number being aborted daily in the U.S.A. is down from the over 4,000 babies being aborted daily in the year 2000.

But how do abortion advocates get away with such wanton acts of murder? How do they retain their standing in society? How do so many abortion advocating politicians keep getting re-elected —especially when the general public knows exactly where they stand on this issue of murdering babies? They “get away with it” by re-defining words whereby they “*call evil good, and good evil.*” So what do abortion advocates call baby murder? They call it:

“**Women’s choice.**” In view of the fact that being created “*in the image of God*” (Gen. 1:27) makes us free moral agents, how could anyone be against a woman’s “right to choose?” Of course, abortion advocates ignore the baby’s right to **live**!

“**Reproductive Rights.**” This is really a misnomer — labeling the murder of unborn babies under the category of “reproductive rights!” But abortion advocates, by experience, have come to believe that if you tell a lie often enough most people will believe it.

“**Birth Control.**” Abortion has become one of the most common forms of “birth control.” However, it is one thing to prevent conception and something else to murder that which has been conceived. And let’s face it — it **sounds** much better to say “I believe in birth control” than to say “I believe in murdering innocent babies!”

“**Planned Parenting.**” When lust has produced an unplanned pregnancy, under the guise of being for “planned parenting,” many are able to rationalize the murder of a child that is both unplanned and unwanted. And it is a fact; “planned parenting” **sounds**

so dignified, whereas “baby murder” sounds so repulsive.

Life Rationing Procedure.” Somehow I can’t understand how this re-definition could resonate with intelligent people. It almost sounds as if they think they are “God” and have the power “*to kill and make alive*” (cf. 2 Kings 5:7). However, I do admit that the words “Life rationing procedure” **sound** better than “let’s murder the baby.” Yes, the devil’s servants have an amazing capacity to justify sin by simply re-defining sin!

Conclusion:

In the realm of morals there are other abominable sins which have gradually become largely acceptable, in part, because those who condone and those who engage in such despicable behavior have been allowed to re-define sin. For the most part, abortion advocates limit their condonance of baby murder to babies yet in the womb. But the **principle** that justifies the killing of unwanted babies anywhere will justify the killing of unwanted babies everywhere — both in and out of the womb. In fact, Joseph Fletcher (one of the leading proponents of the philosophy of Situation Ethics), in **Infanticide and the Ethics of Loving Concern**, said: “It is reasonable to describe infanticide as post-natal abortion!” At least, Fletcher is consistent. The killing of infants is infanticide — whether it be prenatal or post natal. Just murder all innocent, unwanted babies, call it “abor-tion” (either pre or post), then label it “planned parenting” and presto! Murder is no longer murder, and sin is no longer sinful — or so the **devil** (and his servant) would have us believe.

One other thought worthy of mention is the fact that the latest statistics state that there are about 2 million couples in America who are waiting and ready to adopt a baby, which translates to around 36 worthy families wanting to adopt for every child being put up for adoption! Hence, even if a baby is unwanted and unplanned, there are ways whereby it can be loved and cared for; it does not have to be **murdered!** —B. Witherington
