

CHRISTIAN PRO-LIFE MANIFESTO 2017

A Set of Spiritual & Strategic Declarations Outlining An Effort to Unify the Messages and Mechanisms of the Christian Church and the Christian Pro-Life Community

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with **one heart and one mouth** you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6*

PURPOSE

The purpose of this writing is to begin the process of a prayerful discovery of the motives, messaging, and mechanisms necessary to effectively synchronize the divergent efforts of the established and functioning pro-life ministries across the nation; and to unify them all behind the common purpose of seeing a *spiritual awakening and revival in the nation that would bring about an end to the slaughter of innocent babies through abortion.*

The desired goal of this initiative would be to establish platforms of amplification and operational systems that would create seamless connecting points for all like-minded pro-life groups. This would enable them to increase time spent together in prayer, amplify the impact of the gospel of life message by speaking a common language, and to establish the operational rails that would provide opportunities for increased collaborations on independent projects.

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to build relationships that unify the Church of Jesus Christ, both universal and local; and the pro-life communities, which operate most of the time as if unaware that they are one and the same. This division has only served to weaken the effectiveness of our common mission to advance the Kingdom of Christ through the process of disciple making [Matthew 28:19-20], and to end the sinful practice of abortion that continues to cause this nation and its people to live in condemnation [Proverbs 14:34].

We believe that the pro-life community must endeavor to model the level of unity and common purpose among itself that it desires to see reflected in the Church of Jesus Christ, writ large.

In order to destroy the walls of separation that the politics surrounding the abortion issue has erected between the pro-life movement and the church, those who profess to be Christians must come to see abortion in terms of its immorality and connection with the spiritual wickedness from which it flows.

Published by The Beloved Community

An Affiliate of The Life Education and Research Network (LEARN) & The National Black Pro-Life Council

We must, through extensive prayer and consistency in our messages, seek a time of awakening in the nation, so that all followers of Jesus Christ will clearly understand and agree: "that just because abortion is justified in the eyes of the law, does not mean that it's justified in the eyes of God, and we must resist it together."

Understanding that abortion is a moral issue and not just that of politics; we believe that abortion in this nation will only be ended when the people no longer possess an appetite for the violence and spiritual wickedness that is at the heart of the abortion holocaust. We do not believe that a political solution in itself is sufficient, as politicians are only able to change public policy, and even in that they are not dependable. What is required is a national change of heart concerning abortion, and only God can accomplish that for us [I Corinthians 2:5].

Ultimately, we believe that there will be no victory in totally defeating abortion until we experience revival and spiritual awakening that can only come through national repentance, humility, and fervent prayer [II Chronicles 7:14]. The Lord must once again be honored all over this nation, and His rules of righteousness respected in every community. Towards this end, the pro-life community must assume a prominent and leading position.

Disclaimer

There is no intent or design in the drafting of this document, or in forming this ad hoc pro-life leadership council to either establish a new permanent organization, or to elevate any particular person to any position of leadership within the pro-life community.

The sole purpose of this initiative is to bring increased unity to the Body of Christ and the pro-life movement, which ultimately should be one and the same. We also seek to synchronize our efforts to pray, plan, and implement spiritual strategies together that would maximize our impact in turning abortion away. Our desire is to strengthen a movement by activating and mobilizing people through realizing a common purpose, in Christ Jesus.

Ultimately, we will seek through prayer and the practices of our faith to create a spiritual atmosphere conducive to a Move of God that will cause abortion to become unacceptable to the people of the nation, and thereby facilitating its total demise.

JUSTIFICATION

Malcolm X once said: *"The greatest mistake of the movement has been trying to organize a sleeping people around specific goals. You have to wake the people up first, then you'll get action."*

We believe that in order to finally see the conditions set that will bring about the end and final determination of abortion, this nation must be visited by the Spirit of God in a national awakening, and the Church of Jesus Christ must experience revival in order to regain its prophetic voice in determining the direction of the nation. The pro-life movement must become the leading voice in calling America and the church to repentance over the issue of abortion, and in calling for a return of our national heart unto the Lord.

Fundamentally, we believe that advancing the cause of life should be more of a prayer movement, than a protest movement. Not by any means to the exclusion of all the valiant human efforts such as those that have been put forth over the past decades of marching and public demonstrations; but rather as a significant increase and inclusion of prayer and intercession as front line, spiritual weapons that we believe will have far greater impact [II Corinthians 10:14]. *Human solutions will never completely fix spiritual problems.*

For decades, the pro-life movement has marched, protested, lobbied, displayed graphic signs, and held educational conferences; and we can clearly see that it has had some positive impact in reducing the number of abortions. According to National Right to Life, since its zenith in 1990 when the Guttmacher Institute reported the abortion number for that year at a whopping 1,608,600, the abortion industry has been on a steady decline, with 2015-16 reporting the lowest numbers since 1975.

We certainly celebrate that progress, but nevertheless, abortion on demand has survived, and become more broadly accepted in America because the nation has nurtured and cultivated a spiritual appetite for violence, death, and various other forms of wicked expressions.

Since 1973, the year the Roe versus Wade and Doe versus Bolton decisions legalizing abortion nationwide were handed down by the United States Supreme Court; more than 58.5 million innocent children have been legally killed through what some have ridiculously defended as, "the right to choose".

This level of violence, from a human perspective, is almost inexplicable in a civilized society. Perhaps we are not as civilized as we might think. This nation continues to not only condone abortion violence through the legislative policies that we allow to be enacted in our name, but also through subsidies from our tax dollars, and sponsorships from some of our largest corporations. Laws protecting abortion still go un-repealed, abortion practices are bleeding rivers of money, and wicked people are profiting from the physical and emotional pain to both women and men that abortion inevitably brings.

Pro-life ministries and organizations across the country have fought valiantly to not only change the policies that enable the abortion holocaust, but to also change the perceptions of American citizens concerning the way they understand the industrial baby killing complex. Great effort and expense has gone into educating people about the issues of abortion, to include establishing the personhood of the child, exposing the various methods of killing preborn children, and the devastating consequences experienced by post abortive women. Recent revelations have even exposed the for profit marketing of baby parts by the infamous organization known as Planned Parenthood.

In addition, modern technologies such as ultra-sound, 3D, and 4D scans have proven conclusively that the object of the abortion debate is not just a "clump of tissue" as some once suggested, but rather an actual living, and developing human being.

The horrific procedure known as "partial birth abortion", in all of its graphic horror, has been illustrated, demonstrated, and testified about by medical professionals as being of no legitimate medical purpose other than guaranteeing a dead late term baby.

Unfortunately, even after all of their success in exposing, explaining, and condemning the killing of fetuses in the womb to the American people, including those who profess Christianity; the anti-abortion movement has not yet seen what could be deemed on any level as an adequate return on those investments in the way that people have responded to that information.

Even though there has been a continuous decline in annual abortion, as was previously mention; children continue to die, monies continue to flow into the death mill coffers, and the people of God remain asleep!

We contend that the main problem is not a lack of knowledge concerning abortion and how it is literally government sanctioned violence against women and children that allows so much of the nation to remain in apathy and slumber. We believe that people know more today than they ever have before, but not enough of them care enough to do what is necessary to see abortion eliminated once and for all.

It is not because knowledge about abortion and its sinful immorality has not been delivered to the people. The reason our children continue to be lost is because the people are rejecting that knowledge. Our messaging is not inadequate in our opinion. We just do not believe that the spiritual conditions in the hearts of the people are sensitive enough to be receptive to those messages, causing them to respond.

An applicable scripture concerning this can be found in Hosea 4:6, which reads: *"my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children."*

The Church of Jesus Christ in America is in a state of slumber, and has not provided an adequate response to all of the information about abortion and black genocide that has been revealed to her. The greatest Power in the universe that can be wielded against the attitudes and ideologies that support the political and economic underpinnings of abortion is currently lying dormant, and it must somehow be awakened so that it can reclaim its rightful position in defending the sanctity of innocent human life [Proverbs 24:11].

Application

The following paragraphs will layout in brief detail a potential spiritual and strategic plan of action that could be undertaken to potentially galvanize the existing pro-life community through unification; and to increase its ranks by adding soldiers of the cross that are currently slumbering inactive in our churches. Prayerfully, we envision a time of awakening in the Body of Christ as a result of our efforts that will open eyes and dispel critical misunderstandings concerning the acceptable position of followers of Christ as it relates to abortion.

The Pro-life Community & Prayer

Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. Psalm 127:1

We believe that abortion, homosexuality, criminal violence, and political corruption, among other things; are all born out of the same spiritual wickedness that presently hovers over this land like a dark cloud. Although all of these issues of unrighteousness are manifested through human behavior, they are in essence spiritual problems, and human solutions will never be sufficient in adequately dealing with spiritual problems [Ephesians 6:12].

At the risk of sounding negative and critical, which is not our intention at all; we contend that pro-life ministries and organizations have for decades invested disproportionately more time to advancing well thought out human solutions in combating abortion, than it has to advancing well prayed out spiritual solutions. We have worked diligently to elect certain candidates, we have lobbied to pass certain laws, and we have developed media campaigns designed for mass influence, yet the babies are still dying, and the laws remain unchanged.

We know that all of these activities must continue in order to engage in a comprehensive approach to ending abortion, but we also know that certain things must be put in proper balance if we are to realize the ultimate success.

In Mark chapter 9, when Jesus' disciples expressed frustration in their inability to eliminate a persistent spiritual wickedness, our Lord instructed them wisely by proclaiming: *"And he said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."*

Renowned Methodist Pastor Samuel Chadwick wrote:

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

As a recommendation to positively address the desperate need for a greater commitment to prayer in the pro-life movement, we are calling for the formulation and constant maintaining of a **Permanent Pro-life Prayer Base** that will dedicate itself exclusively to saturating every aspect of the anti-abortion movement in constant, fervent, faith believing prayer.

To paraphrase a popular colloquialism coined by ancient Greek physician Hippocrates, we believe that "*desperate times calls for desperate prayer.*"

As those whom God has called to march are marching, and those He has called to speak are speaking; we believe that those of us who God has called to prayer must be praying fervently on the behalf of all the others.

We believe that every pro-life plan must be born out of, and saturated in prayer, and that every pro-life conference must be covered in intercessory prayer and fasting. We believe that the sidewalks where the pro-life counselors operate need to be covered, and that Altars of Prayer in front of abortion mills must be established and well maintained.

We also believe that more platforms for corporate pro-life prayer gatherings must be arranged for the purposes of coming together in intercession for national repentance, and to develop corporate prayer strategies that can be taken home and implemented in our diverse communities across the nation.

In addition, one of the most beneficial outcomes that we envision from this coordinated prayer effort is the opportunity it will afford us to link thousands of pastors and churches together with us in prayer without the intimidation that political opposition to abortions often entails. It's about widening the entrance ramps for collaboration as we seek a spiritual awakening together. In this way we can overcome the suspicions that are currently prohibiting certain segments of the church with differing political party loyalties from finding common ground to associate on over abortion.

After all, the Body of Christ was never called to do politics together, but we were surely called to pray together.

We are dedicating the ***Pro-Life Prayer Summit of October 19-21, 2017*** in Chicago, Illinois [Oak Lawn] to the exclusive purpose of creating and implementing this ***Permanent Pro-Life Prayer Base***, and to begin identifying a workable prayer strategy that we can initiate immediately. Included in the discussion we will be identifying ways to facilitate:

- Establishing a National Network of Pro-life Intercessors
- Scheduling Frequent National, Regional, and Local Prayer Gatherings
- Developing Advance Prayer Teams to Go Before Major Events
- Developing a System of Establishing Altars of Prayer at Abortion Mills

To encourage prayer in their book, "How to Pray for Revival", Life Action Ministries wrote the following:

"Without question, the greatest movements of God's Spirit around the world have been birthed through the labor pains of prevailing prayer, and the greatest evangelistic thrust and missionary movements of history have been born out of times of revival in the church. God's people throughout history have tested the promises of God regarding prayer, and without exception have found them to be true.

If that is true, you say, why aren't more people praying? We have found that it is far easier to plan, to develop programs, to preach – to do just about anything – than it is to pray." --- Life Action Ministries

The Ad Hoc Pro-Life Leadership Council

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."--- Jesus Christ

We are calling for the formulation of a temporary Pro-life Leadership Council, consisting of members from all willing pro-life ministries and organizations, which would meet semi-annually for the next 3 years in various parts of the country for the purpose of praying together, hearing from the Lord concerning our spiritual way forward, and then preparing a coordinated plan of action that we could operate together.

We believe that as much as has been accomplished by the various pro-life groups striking out independently of each other; there is undoubtedly so much more that can be accomplished by having increased opportunities to strike together, and on the same spot. By building and strengthening these operational bridges, we believe that we can increase the effectiveness of our anti-abortion efforts in areas to include influencing local legislative initiatives, and responding to emerging crisis.

Some of the other issues that can be addressed in the Pro-life Leadership Council gatherings include:

- Building stronger relationships through increasing prayer and fellowship
- Collaboration on messaging and special focuses to maximize impact of the pro-life voice
- Building bridges of pro-life participation in and out of churches
- Collaboration on ways to bring healing to the nation – i.e. Crisis Pregnancy Centers & Family Counseling

We are calling for the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Pro-Life Leadership Council to take place at the Oak Lawn Hilton in Chicago as part of the ***Pro-life Prayer and Unity Summit***, October 19-21, 2017. Information can be obtained at www.voiceofthebeloved.org. [Website presently under construction]

One of the first agenda items at this initial Ad Hoc Council meeting will be for pro-life leaders to repent from our pertinacious commitment to advancing our own independent agendas, and for separating ourselves from each other in praying, planning, and seeking common implementation of God inspired solutions. Central to the concept of a pro-life leadership council is the willingness of each participant to hear from the Lord together, and to respond as a one cohesive body.

Unifying Behind a Healing Messaging

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6

Sometimes the national debate over abortion can become so vitriolic and bitter on both sides of the issue that we lose sight of the most important considerations, which of course are the lives of the babies and the well-being of the mothers. It is an unfortunate consequence that as a result of the extreme passion in advocating against abortion that many pro-lifers operate in, they have sometime lost sight of the principles of compassion in their approach, and the element of love in their speech [Ephesians 4:15].

The same is true for those who advocate on the other side. In our zeal to be right in winning arguments, sometimes we lose sight of our call to be righteous in everything that we do, even when we find that we at places of disagreement based on the information available to us at that time.

"And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." II Timothy 2:24-26

We should pray to discover ways of communicating truth concerning abortion that are gracious and life affirming, even as we are challenging a practice of spiritual wickedness that is dark and detestable by its very nature.

We must always remember that our dispute is not against misguided people. Our contention is with the spiritual wickedness that is responsible for the deception, and for their blindness to the truth [Ephesians 6:12].

Another messaging challenge we have considered is the overwhelming numbers of differing messages being communicated to advance pro-life positions. We believe that our messages are often made weaker due to the sheer numbers of different types of expressions, thereby causing many people to simply tune us out, or settle behind more comfortable positions.

We are recommending that prayerful consideration be given to our pro-life messaging, as well as the mediums we will use to deliver those messages. We believe that our constant aim in the messages that we create should do more than just deliver condemning challenges to those who don't yet agree with us.

We believe that our voices should be strong in affirming our opportunity and responsibility to choose life [Deuteronomy 30:19], while at the same time speak very clearly about our desire to bring healing and restoration to those who have been broken by the pro-death deceptions.

Conclusion

"Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." –Psalm 37:4-6

We will look to commit all of the above mentioned recommendations to extensive prayer and discussion at the October 19-21, 2017 Pro-Life Prayer Summit in Chicago [Oak Lawn], Illinois.