

## ***Answering the Question: What Did You Do?***

Last week, I wrote about a question that has been haunting me ever since the Southwest Minnesota Pro-Life Rally held on April 12.

It's the question borne of the "interesting times" in which we live – an age when at least 1.2 million American children are killed by abortion each year. In light of the vast scope of the injustice that is done in our land, one day we will have to answer: *What did you do?*

On the face of it, it seems unlikely that we can do anything. In a *good* year, the number of abortions in America is equal to one-and-a-half times the population of South Dakota! What impact can we have on such a massive sin?

And to make it worse, abortion really is just a symptom – not the problem itself. The real problem, as Allen Unruh points out, is *moral relativism*. The real problem is the idea that there is no absolute right or wrong; no absolute *truth*. And *that*, of course, is a belief rooted in our world's rebellion against God.

What can we do to defeated *that*?

Well ... nothing. No on our own.

But we aren't on our own. We work, speak, and fight at God's command. Our God is the One who "chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; [and] the weak things of the world to shame the strong" (1 Cor. 1:27).

There *are* things that we can do. In fact, there are at least five *categories* of ways we can fight against abortion and the ungodliness from which it springs.

### **1. You can get informed.**

Above all, read the Bible and get informed about God's will.

Only God's Word can provide the ultimate explanation for why abortion is wrong. Only Scripture can reveal the judgment God is threatening against our land. And only the Bible gives you promises with which to comfort your neighbor with the assurance of God's love for all who repent.

Also read the news, especially from Christian publications like *World*. We can't strive to change our nation unless we know what our nation is doing.

And if you still have time and an appetite to learn, read the wisdom of our forefathers. Read what Calvin has to say about the proper relationship between church and state. Read what Jonathan Edwards, Daniel Foster, James Willson and other Reformed ministers from our nation's early years wrote about the duty of Christians in a free nation. Good stuff!

### **2. You can get active politically.**

Our most basic civic responsibility, as Christians, is to learn who is running for office and to vote. Those who won't even go to the trouble of voting are a substantial part of our nation's problem.

But we can do far more than to vote. Each state has a different system for determining who gets on their ballot, and Minnesota's system is one of the more convoluted ones. But it's worth learning the system and attending the extra caucuses and meetings in order to influence who gets to run. And the process brings the added benefit of putting us face-to-face with the candidates, where we can ask pointed questions about faith, convictions about the Bible, and issues like abortion.

Do you know of young people who have smarts and the potential to grow wise? Encourage them to get active in politics. Perhaps the Lord has set the next Gideon before you. Perhaps he or she needs the mentoring you can offer!

### **3. You can get active ministerially.**

There are a host of ministries in our area that need helpers. Are you good at offering a sympathetic ear? *Alpha Center needs counselors*. Are you good with paperwork? *Ask if Bethany needs a clerical worker*. Do you like to teach? *Consider teaching ethics to children with Abstinence Clearinghouse*.

If you want more hands-on opportunities, there are plenty of needs to be met at The Banquet or Union Gospel Mission – both of which offer opportunities to show Christ-like love and to speak of your unending comfort in Him.

Of course, ministry doesn't need to happen on the grounds of an agency. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to be a foster parent. Or maybe you would be just the family to open your home to a pregnant girl who has nowhere to go.

Evaluate your gifts, pray for God to open the doors – and *He will!*

### **4. You can get active evangelistically.**

Evangelism is one of our nation's greatest needs. Politics, programs and petitions will accomplish nothing without a transformation of hearts!

And evangelism isn't nearly as difficult as you might think. The biggest part of evangelism involves getting to know your neighbors in a way that allows you to show the love of Christ to them. Do they have any needs that you can meet? Have you invited them over for supper? How about hosting a community party?

Of course, eventually you need to be able "to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Pet. 3:15). But that, too, is easier than you think. What do we confess our comfort to be, in Lord's Day 1? Paraphrase that to summarize what you believe. What does your neighbor need in order to share the comfort you have? Summarize Q&A 2 – Guilt, Grace, Gratitude.

### **5. You can pray!**

The absolute *greatest* need our nation has is for God's grace. And He "gives His grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking Him for them" (HC Q&A 116; see Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13).

If you want to see our nation turn around; if you want to see God blessing our land again; if you want to see an end to the mass-murder of America's children: *Pray!* Get on your knees, and seek the help that God alone can offer. Then pray *more* – seeking God's face *continually* (1 Thess. 5:17; Eph. 6:18).

Humanly speaking, you and I have no hope of ending abortion.

But we're not called to end abortion by human might and wisdom!

Instead, we're called to be faithful with the gifts God has given, using them to seek justice and to show mercy (Mic. 6:8). We're called to faithfully use the opportunities He provides (Luke 12:48). And we're called to trust Him to bring about the results that we can only dream of and pray for (1 Cor. 3:6-7). We're called to do our best, trusting God to use our efforts to bring glory to Himself.

Truly, we live in "interesting times" – for better or for worse. The question that we must answer is: *What did you do?*