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Look Up, America

And will not God bring about justice, for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? – LUKE 18:7

As We Speak – So Are We

by Teresa R. Wagner, Esq.

Abortion on demand is legal in this country because those who advocate it have convinced judges that abortion is a “right.” Euthanasia is now upon us with journals and newspapers discussing the administration of lethal “medications” and the “right” to die. The homosexual lobby has successfully tugged at the heartstrings of many by claiming only to defend “gay rights.”

America’s cultural battles are fought largely with words and, as a sage once said: Verbal engineering precedes social engineering. In her 1991 book *Rights Talk*, author and Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon laments the legalistic nature of American public discourse, including the tendency to reduce sensitive cultural questions to a battle of rights. This trend is counter-productive, she claims, because clashes over rights invariably polarize the disagreeing parties. What’s more, a narrow focus on rights neglects responsibilities, which are a necessary part of the social contract in a civilized society. While the book received critical acclaim, the message seemed to fall on deaf ears. The message must be re-sent. If it is to take root, however, we who proclaim it must also live by it.

Those on the political left are masters at manipulating rights talk in their favor. We must reverse this and regain the high ground. Above all, we must not allow our words to be turned against us. If we do, we end up on the defensive, allowing those who are against us to define the issues. We then appear to be against that which is good and just: rights. The old adage: “Your rights end where mine begin,” is true in every aspect of life.

Consider the examples mentioned

above. There is no such thing as a “right” to homosexual conduct. The homosexual lobby uses the term “gay rights.” This term should not be in our lexicon.

The fact is that the entire “rights” approach to human sexuality is grossly inappropriate. Human sexuality is not a legal or constitutional construct. It is a gift from God. “Rights” talk about something this sacred denigrates the value of this gift. It reduces to a political slogan our God-given capacity to love and procreate. We should not let this happen, nor should we participate in the denigration.

The word “lifestyle” is also problematic. While the term is used innocently by many to describe different habits and preferences, the homosexual lobby introduced it to legitimize their deviant conduct. They contend that their activities merely reflect an “alternative lifestyle” – morally equivalent to heterosexual behavior. Certainly, God’s creation is a marvel of variety. People of faith celebrate this wonder. There is, however, a world of difference between recognition of the diverse gifts distributed to God’s many creatures, and the perversion of our shared gift of human sexuality, which is the universal call to love and give life, as God has done.

The abortion debate is full of Orwellian terminology. The word abortion is always coupled with either the word rights or some other positive term: “abortion rights,” “abortion services,” “abortion provider,” and so on. Abortion is never a right or a service. We should never use this nomenclature.

In the same vein, one doesn’t “provide” an abortion – one commits an abortion, just as one commits a crime. Abortion is a crime

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Sowing Seeds for Post-Abortion Healing

by David C. Reardon, Ph.D.

In January’s article, “Pro-Life Hope Through Post-Abortion Healing,” I discussed the importance of dealing with post-abortion issues if we are to bring an end to the holocaust of abortion. This month I want to suggest a simple way you can help people within your own circle of family and friends to find healing from abortion.

Using this method, you don’t even have to know if someone has had an abortion. All you have to do is sow a few words of healing into your everyday conversations. In every case, your goal is merely to plant the seeds of understanding, empathy, and hope that can lead to future healing.

In a simple, conversational way, cover the following three points:

- (1) Announce that you have come to a whole new understanding of why people choose abortion and how it affects them.
- (2) Express your compassion for women and men who have experienced abortions, knowing that they must constantly keep their feelings bottled up inside for fear that others will judge or condemn them.
- (3) Describe how you have heard of new programs that help women and men find freedom from the burdens of secrecy and shame associated with past abortions.

For example, you might say, “I read an interesting article that gave me a whole new understanding of why women have abortions. I never really understood before how much pressure

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