



Christian Citizenship

“You are the salt of the earth . . . You are the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). One way to be salty and let our light shine is by being good citizens on earth. Our vocation as citizens of both the secular kingdom and God’s kingdom gives us the responsibility to proclaim God’s Word and care for our neighbors. We are called to engage the “public square” with our message of Christ’s mercy for all. Please pray for God’s will to be done... in Jesus’ name.

Canadian Pro-lifers: “Not in Line With Society”

To begin the new year of 2018, Canada’s prime minister Justin Trudeau barred pro-life groups from a federal grant program. In the past, both pro-life and pro-abortion organizations have received grants to offer jobs to young adults. However, pro-abortion political leaders recently cut off grants to groups that will not bow to the altar of abortion on demand.

At a town hall event in Hamilton, Ontario, a college student asked Trudeau, “If you’re pro-life then you are ridiculed and insulted, but if you’re pro-choice then you’re praised. I just want to know if this [free speech] is important to you.” Trudeau responded, “An organization that has the explicit purpose of restricting women’s rights by removing rights to abortion, the right for women to control their own bodies, is not in line with where we are as a government and quite frankly where we are as a society.” Trudeau said that “defending rights and freedoms” is at the core of both himself and Canada, but the issue of abortion presents particular considerations. According to the *Canadian Press*, Trudeau referenced recent changes to the Summer Jobs program that requires applicants adhere to Canadian rights—including access to abortions, and protections for LGBT Canadians. The program funds summer job placements for not-for-profit organizations, public sector employers and small businesses.

Canadian taxpayers pay about \$200 million each year to support the youth-based program, which provides funding for businesses and non-profits to offer temporary summer jobs to youth ages 15-30.

In this way, the government encourages hands-on training for young people before they enter the workforce full-time. The new 2018 grant application requires groups to say that they respect “reproductive rights,” including abortion on demand, as one of their core values.

Canada allows abortions for any reason up to birth and, in many cases, forces taxpayers to pay for them. Regulations such as parental consent for minors, waiting periods, and client informed consent about the procedure are basically non-existent. Some Canadian provinces force taxpayers to pay the full cost of abortion drugs for women. (Source: www.lifenews.com 1-12-18.)

What can we do? As Christians, we are compelled to ask: What is the difference between “reproductive rights” and the sacrifice of Israelite babies on the altar of Baal? What civilization allows its people to sacrifice one generation for the rights, convenience, and brighter future of another? When someone speaks about “a woman’s right to control her own body,” we need to point out that a woman has always had the right to control her body by saying “no” to the act that creates a baby. We can also show through ultrasound technology that the baby is not part of the woman’s body (although dependent upon it). Not only does the unborn child have its own beating heart and blood type perhaps different from the woman, the baby is often a boy! We can equip ourselves with the facts by visiting a local caring pregnancy center, www.lutheransforlife.org, or Life Ministry at www.lcms.org

Please pray that those who defend the lives of unborn children and their mothers be allowed to speak up on their behalf and... in Jesus’ name.

Film by Actor Jon Voight & Dr. Martin Luther King’s Niece Resisted

Actor Jon Voight and actor/producer Nick Loeb are involved in the making of *Roe v. Wade: The Movie*. They are partnering with Alveda King, the niece of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other pro-life leaders. Facebook, however, has blocked the crowdfunding page of Voight and Loeb. Loeb told *World News Daily* that Facebook has even blocked people who were trying to share the ads he paid for.

The film will follow pro-abortion advocates of the 1970s such as Dr. Bernard Nathanson and Betty Friedan as well as pro-life advocate Dr. Mildred Jefferson, the first African American woman to graduate from Harvard Medical School. The movie will examine the deception behind *Roe v. Wade* and the lives of Norma McCorvey and Dr. Nathanson who both changed their minds about abortion to speak up for life.

Other pro-life advocates such as Lila Rose with Live Action, the Susan B. Anthony List, and Live Action News have had ads censored or even refused by Facebook and Twitter. (Source: www.lifenews.com 1-12-18)

What can we do? Become more familiar with the history of *Roe v. Wade*. Google Norma McCorvey and Dr. Bernard Nathanson to learn why they could no longer advocate for abortion. Volunteer to help in some way at your local caring pregnancy center. Set up a display of pro-life brochures and fetal models in your church.

Please pray that a younger generation embrace the sanctity of human life... in Jesus' name.

No Liberation in Abortion

A new study, published by The Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons, reveals that post-abortive women in America suffer from long-term negative emotions. The research was based on an anonymous online survey of 987 women who contacted a crisis pregnancy center for post-abortion care. Dr. Priscilla Coleman, a professor at Bowling Green State University, and her team of researchers asked women about the "most significant positive and negative aspects" of their abortions.

The women studied reported good psychological health prior to their first abortion. Afterward, however, a significant number of women sought professional mental health services (67.5%

compared to 13% prior to the abortion), and used prescription drugs for their psychological health (51% compared to 6.6% prior).

Many women faced strong societal pressure to abort their unborn babies, even though many said they remained unsure about their abortion up through the day of the procedure. According to the study, "58.3% of the women reported aborting to make others happy, 73.8% disagreed that their decision to abort was entirely free from even subtle pressure from others to abort, 28.4% aborted out of fear of losing their partner if they did not abort." When asked about the most significant positives of their abortion, 31.6% of women said there were none, and another 22% did not answer the question. (Source: www.lifenews.com 1-3-18.)

What can we do? A common theme among women who have abortions is that "it brought me to my end and brought me to my knees before God." Every time we speak a pro-life word, we do well to remember that a relative, friend, or neighbor may be grieving their sin of abortion. May we take care to speak words of welcome, so that hurting women and their families may be encouraged to "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Eph. 3:17b-18).

Please pray for all who mourn their abortion choice that, in repentance, they will know hope and healing... in Jesus' name.

Queering God

Swarthmore College, founded by Quakers, is offering courses in "queering the Bible" and "queering God." The course description reads: "By reading the Bible with the methods of queer and trans theoretical approaches, this class destabilizes long held assumptions about what the Bible—and religion—says about gender and sexuality." The school's religion department is also teaching a class that questions the sexuality of the Almighty called, "Queering God: Feminist and Queer Theology." (Source: FoxNews.com 12-26-17.)

Please pray for college students everywhere and... in Jesus' name.