



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.

Incapable of Shame?

The following was written by *WORLD* Editor-in-Chief Marvin Olasky:

In *The Death’s Head Chess Club*, a new novel by John Donoghue, chess player Emil arrives at the Auschwitz concentration camp with his family. Soon his wife is in one line for women able to work. He is with men able to work. His two small sons, with their grandmother, are in a third line.

The scene continues: “Emil is anxious about his two boys, but the officer tells him not to worry ... the children will be sent to the family camp, where they will be cared for by those who are too old for manual labor. He says it with the weary calmness of a man who has given this reassurance a hundred times before. It has the ring of normality, of truth. But ... in Auschwitz, ‘family’ means death.”

Guards march away the children and the aged. “...Emil does not know he will never see them again.” They and grandma go to the gas chamber and then “up the chimney,” as their corpses are burned. Months later, Emil is “crying, inconsolably. ‘My children, my children,’ he wails. ... ‘My beautiful boys ... I don’t even have a photograph of them. I can’t remember what they looked like.’”

Six million Jews died, and others as well. This year we’re on track to hit 60 million aborted babies since the *Roe v. Wade* decision on January 22, 1973. Ten times as many. The four-year Holocaust began in earnest in 1941, when German armies headed east and paramilitary units

conducted mass shootings of Jews, maybe including my great-grandparents. We’re now at 44 years since *Roe v. Wade*, 11 times as many.

If you’re an abortion advocate and you’re reading this now, you’re probably angry at such a comparison. You might point out that pro-life people generally allow for abortion in those (very rare) cases when it’s needed to save the life of the mother. You might point out that the penalties for abortionists when their practice was illegal were not the same as the penalties for murdering born humans.

And I’d agree with you that the Holocaust in its wholesale evil—starting in 1942, crowding men, women, and children into a closed room and wafting in poison gas—provides a more brutal picture than the current abortion retail trade, where an unborn child floats peacefully in protected space, until needles and knives suddenly invade.

Nevertheless, think of what Samantha Power, concluding her time as U.S. ambassador to the UN, said last month as parents holding babies in blood-soaked blankets picked their way past corpses in the streets of Aleppo, Syria. She asked the Assad regime and its Russian enablers, “Are you truly incapable of shame? Is there literally nothing that can shame you? Is there no act of barbarism against civilians, no execution of a child, that gets under your skin, that just creeps you out a little bit?”

We should say not only to abortionists but to all their enablers—justices, politicians, propagandists, and bystanders—what Powers said: “Denying or obfuscating the facts, as you will do today—saying up is down, black is white—will not absolve you. When one day there is a full accounting of the horrors committed in this assault of Aleppo [substitute: abortion]—and the day will come, sooner or later—you will not be able to say you did not know what was happening. You will not be able to say you were not involved. We all know

what is happening. And we all know you are involved.”

... [A] single death is a tragedy, a thousand deaths a statistic—but at some point big numbers become grotesque. Six million Holocaust deaths. Sixty million U.S. abortions. An estimated 56 million induced abortions worldwide each year. When do those numbers creep us out—at least a little bit?

... January 20, 1942: That’s when senior Nazi officials meet in the Berlin suburb of Wannsee and planned what they thought would be the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question.” January 22, 1973: That’s when seven Supreme Court justices agreed to the mass killing of unborn children. [These are] two dates that will live in infamy. (Reprinted from WORLD Magazine, 1-21-17)

What can we do? Resist letting our hearts grow cold! God’s Word in Psalms says, “For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (139:13-14). The Word in Isaiah says, “Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the Lord, who made all things’” (Isaiah 44:24). May we speak up for those being led to the slaughter and open our arms to those who have believed the lie of abortion and now mourn their little ones.

PLEASE PRAY that our hearts are turned toward God’s little ones and their parents . . . in Jesus’ name.

Gender Identity Acronyms

Michael Cook, editor of *MercatorNet*, writes, “I thought that LGBTTQIAAP (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, ally, pansexual—12 letters) would take the trophy [for acronyms]. But then he discovered the 16-character acronym LGBTTQQFAGPBDSM on the website of Wesleyan University, an exclusive \$50,000-a-year college in Connecticut. Cook writes, “In its description of ‘themed housing,’ or places on the campus where like-minded students can gather, it explains what ‘Open House’ is: *a safe space for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Flexual, Asexual, Genderf***, Polyamorous, Bondage/Disciple, Dominance/Submission, Sadism/Masochism (LGBTTQQFAGPBDSM) communities and for people*

of sexually or gender dissident communities. The goals of Open House include generating interest in a celebration of queer life from the social to the political to the academic. Open House works to create a Wesleyan community that appreciates the variety and vivacity of gender, sex and sexuality.”

Cook wonders how it is possible for sadists and masochists to create a “safe space for 18-year-olds away from home for the first time.” This kind of activity, Cook explains has become a “commercial product” thanks to *Fifty Shades of Grey* and its sequel *Fifty Shades Darker*. Marketing experts report that “BDSM is an activity that has entered the mainstream in recent years—and commerce is never far behind popular culture.” (Source: *MercatorNet.net* 2/12/17)

What can we do? Read *Sexual Morality in a Christless World* (CPH) by Rev. Matthew Rueger and the ten essays of *Ethics of Sex* (CPH), both inviting us to a way of life in harmony with the Lord’s created order. Let us not lose sight of the church as a place of refuge for those who are battered down by their desires.

PLEASE PRAY that we correctly use God’s Word to speak with clarity, love, and . . . in Jesus’ name.

Euthanasia & Organ Harvesting

Six states have legalized physician-assisted suicide. But experience in Europe, writes Eric Metaxas, “shows that once you concede the principle that some lives are not worth living, the definition of what kinds of lives are not worth living expands.” As one Belgian law professor put it, “What is presented at first as a right [to die] is going to become a kind of obligation.” Is this alarmist talk? No. Ethicists at the University of Montreal now argue that “the organs of those who submit to physician-assisted suicide shouldn’t go to waste.” These ethicists claim that “MAID (medical aid in dying) has the potential to provide additional organs available for transplantation ... this is a way to respect the autonomy of patients for whom organ donation is an important value.” But Metaxas observes that “the words ‘autonomy’ and ‘important value’ are window dressing for a ghoulish proposal.” (Source: *Breakpoint*, 2-3-17)

PLEASE PRAY for the wisdom of God who is the Creator and Redeemer of human life. . . in Jesus’ name.

