CBR Communiqué

Directors Gregg & Lois Cunningham and daughters

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform **October 2024**

How is the Gospel Relevant to Our Prenatal Project?

By Gregg Cunningham

Recently, a pastor asked me the question, "How is the Gospel relevant to your prenatal project?" The following article is my reply to him:

We of course strive to be guided by the Spirit in our pro-life work (and all else), but we also try to not over-spiritualize pro-life work generally, or our prenatal project specifically. In Luke 13:10-17, Christ healed a woman on the Sabbath and was rebuked by a legalistic synagogue leader who had over-spiritualized our duty to others. He mistakenly prioritized adherence to the law above compassion for those who suffer helplessly. Christ then turned the tables and publicly rebuked him for his hardness of heart.

In Luke 10, when Christ was asked by a law professor what a person must do to inherit eternal life (the quintessential "Gospel" question), He answered that we must love God, and we must love our "neighbor." That set up an exchange related to the question of who our "neighbor" actually is. Christ's answer was the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which as we all know, involved our duty to intervene in defense of helpless victims we may have never even met, and perhaps wouldn't even like. The Samaritan exposed himself to a risk of physical violence and offered an open-ended financial sacrifice.

In our pro-life work we are faced first-and-foremost with a variant of this same question: Can the human embryo fairly be called our "neighbor"? The answer to this critically important question defines the scope of our Biblical and social justice duty to intervene. Does the zygote become our "neighbor" at the moment of conception, or not until the blastocyst implants in the lining of the uterus, or not until the fetus reaches "viability," or perhaps not until the fetus is born and takes its first breath (the view common among many observant Jews), or even later?

The bio-ethical version of this question asks at what point along the gestational timeline does the embryo or fetus acquire the developmental characteristics which might reasonably entitle him/her to rights of personhood. Whatever the answer to that question might be, the answer is not "while the embryo or fetus are still believed (mistakenly) to be a 'blob of tissue,' or a 'clump of cells.'"

Most observers apply "form and function" criteria to determine the gestational age at which the baby becomes a "baby" in any legally (or spiritually) defensible sense (which is to ask "what does the baby look like and what can the baby do" at that stage). They are essentially asking at what point does the fetus become sufficiently "infant-like" to merit the protections prescribed by the Word of God, or the law of the land.

Nearly everyone would grant full rights of personhood at birth, most would do so by the third trimester, a substantial

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Donate Wisely

Some years ago, *National Review* magazine wrote an article about the high salaries earned by leaders of many national Christian ministries – some were shockingly high. In a recent review of data on www.charitynavigator.org and https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/, we found a number of pro-life leaders are following suit. A quick review of ten well-known pro-life organizations revealed that many of their executive staff members command high salaries. The top three earners (of the ten groups) had 2022 salaries and reportable income of $279,173, $281,213 and $302,423.

CBR salaries are substantially lower than those of many national pro-life organizations. Our field staff must raise their own salaries in the manner of many evangelical missionaries, and that translates into modest salaries. It requires a lot of work, but it generally results in committed staff members who have personal prayer and financial support teams.

We are troubled that many pro-life leaders are taking salaries that seem more appropriate for businesses. Some are apparently treating their jobs as lucrative income sources rather than ministry. At CBR, no one earns a high salary, and we use donations wisely. We suggest that donors visit the charity information websites and do some research to assist in donation decision making. God bless you for supporting CBR.

God bless you for taking pity on preborn children.

"But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine…"
Luke 10:33-34a

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Christians to take pity on preborn babies & mothers at risk for abortion
- Pray for housing for two CBR staff members
- Pray for pastors and priests to preach against abortion

Events

Sign Displays at Abortion Mills
Weekly in Honolulu, Hawaii
Oct. 26 Planned Parenthood
Mission Viejo, CA

Genocide Awareness Project (GAP)
Oct. 21-22 University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Oct. 23-24 University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Oct. 28-29 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

Photo Trucks
Weekly in Manatee & Sarasota Counties, FL.
October 6,
13, 17, & 20 Phoenix & Glendale, AZ

Speaking Engagements & Trainings
Oct. 6 Apologetics training over Zoom
Oct. 7 Pro-life Club, Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ
Oct. 12 Pro-Life Training Academy, University of South Carolina

Left: ***We displayed nine abortion photo signs on a busy street corner in Johnson City, Tennessee, on August 2, 2024. CBR staff member Jane Bullington was surprised when a man hopped out of his white truck which was stopped at a stoplight. He ran up to her and stuffed three $20 bills into her hand, saying, "Use this for food or for whatever you guys need. God bless you." Our presence as a witness for life is a blessing to many people. In contrast, a teenage girl leaned out the window of a car driving past and shouted, "You have nothing better to do with your life!" Our response: "There aren't many more important ways to spend our time than in saving lives."***

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minority by the second trimester, and an even smaller minority during the first trimester. That is a fact problem which can only be solved through education, but most people are visual learners in this post-literate culture.

Pro-life celebrity speakers have been trying to talk abortion to death (without using pictures) for 50 years, and we are now worse off than we have been at any time during the last half-century. Donald Trump has cravenly abandoned the preborn to the same "states' rights" logic which made America half slave and half free. The Republican Party has followed suit, and supposedly "pro-life" candidates are in full retreat. The pro-life movement has lost seven consecutive abortion ballot initiatives in the last 18 months, and ten more are on the ballot in November.

Add to those dismal facts the tragedy that two-thirds of the public believe the human embryo and early fetus are still "nothing" during the first 90 days of pregnancy (that age-stage during which 90% of abortions are committed). How many humiliating defeats must pro-life forces suffer before they wake up and change course?

The history of centuries of successful campaigns against social injustice is the history of pictures. Through the use of pictures, endoscopic video imagery puts the lie to misconceptions about prenatal humanity; but in a perverse paradox, pro-life celebrity speakers (and the pro-life movement more broadly), work almost as hard as Planned Parenthood to hide this game-changing, life-saving imagery. In their hubris, our side claims to believe that the mere sound of our own voices will be enough to turn the tide of public opinion.

Prenatal education saves lives, and one of the best teaching tools is the See Baby Grow app, and at www.ERF.science. Please download and share, especially the 8-week embryo picture above, because 8-week babies are being killed by abortion pills!

Consider CBR for an IRA Contribution

For our donors who are at or beyond age 72, the point at which IRA distributions are required by the IRS, we ask you to consider making a gift to CBR. You may also begin directing qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) from your Regular IRA starting at age 70.5 and you may transfer up to $100,000 to charities tax-free each year.

This is an excellent way to save babies while minimizing your tax burden. Contact your IRA account custodian to request a direct transfer to CBR. You will need our address and tax ID number 33-0443975.

Should Priests and Pastors Speak Against Abortion in the Pulpit?

This post-abortal woman says yes. She heard CBR board member Fr. Frank Pavone give an insightful interview and posted this comment:

"I had an abortion when I was young and too heavily influenced by worldly evils. I want priests to speak up on this issue. I implore priests to speak up on this issue! Why should I care if it makes me uncomfortable? What I care about is that young people hear the truth of abortion and that there is pushback to the pro-death narrative that they are bombarded with every day. I would rather that the violence against countless innocents stop, that women stop being emotionally and physically damaged, that men stop being discounted ..." TheIncensedCatholic https://bit.ly/48mgPNA

God Changed This Man in Spain

We should never discount the impact of our actions when we take a stand for life. Sometimes the people who respond to us angrily are the ones on whom God is working. We share this encouraging report emailed to us October 8, 2024, by CBR-Spain Director Jorge Benito:

> I ran into a co-worker I met years ago. He was a very atheist person. But just today he looked for me and asked me for forgiveness. I saw him with a cross on his neck. I couldn't believe it. He told me he wanted to ask me for forgiveness because years ago he got angry with me because he saw me on the street distributing pro-life information … It was an episode that I almost didn't remember because it happened years ago. So, of course I forgave him and I became very happy.

Center for Bio-Ethical Reform

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"Can the human embryo fairly be called our neighbor?"

CBR-Executive Director Gregg Cunningham

Students at Arizona State University were educated by CBR prenatal signs on October 17, 2024. Our team was present to take advantage of the presence of Turning Point USA Founder Charlie Kirk on campus. His speeches always draw a crowd.

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