

# A Pro-Life Guide to Combating Abortion



by Larry Plachno

The information at Unselfish.org comes from more than 15 years of research and study into the causes of social problems, how selfishness and permissiveness spreads through our society, and how actions and decisions are interconnected. It was recently brought to our attention that some of this information could be very useful in pro-life programs geared to reduce and eliminate abortion. Hence, this document was prepared to assist people working in that area.

Some of the major points are as follows:

□ The pro-choice people insist that the abortion decision is a personal one and there is no right and wrong, only choice. They are partially correct since all of their actions and decisions are personal because no one is responsible for them but themselves. However, there is a fairly simple criterion for right and wrong that covers a lot of ground.

□ Selfishness and permissiveness have spread through our society by a process called desensitization. The abortion decision is simply one manifestation of this selfishness and permissiveness. It is linked to other selfish, permissive and pro-choice actions and decisions.

□ Pro-Choice is a bad word. What it really means is that the person making the decision is willing to do whatever they want in spite of who gets hurt, and instead of doing what is best for others and society. Hence, the term "pro-choice" is not limited to abortion. People can be pro-choice on using drugs, they can be pro-choice on committing crimes, they can be pro-choice on selling drugs to kids, they can be pro-choice on murder, and they can be pro-choice on virtually any decision or action that could harm society or other people.

□ One reason why the abortion people are successful is because they avoid mentioning a criterion for right and wrong and avoid mentioning that pro-choice actions and decisions are interconnected. To combat this, pro-life people must talk about a criterion for right and wrong and talk about how pro-choice actions and decisions are interconnected.

For the sake of simplicity, we have split this into two parts. Part one explains how selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude spreads through our society to influence abortion and other pro-choice decisions. Part two provides a list of sug-

gestions on how you can use this information to reduce or eliminate abortion.

## Part I - How It Works

### A Simple Criterion

Years of research into social problems have shown that there are two, and only two, choices when faced with a decision or action that could affect other people. We can make our decision based on what the person doing the action wants, or we can make our decision based on the impact of the action or decision on other people and society. Both sides have several names. Basing your decision of right and wrong on what the person doing the action wants can be called left, liberal, selfish, permissive or pro-choice. Basing your decision of right and wrong on the impact on other people and society can be called right, conservative, unselfish, or pro-society.

What the research and statistics show is that many social problems are caused or aggravated by liberal and pro-choice decisions. On the other hand, unselfish and pro-society decisions often help the individual and society.

Some people are fascinated with the thought that modern research and computer statistics have shown us that being unselfish will reduce or eliminate many of our social problems and move us towards a better society. Actually, it takes very little research to discover that this idea has never been a secret and is just about as old as recorded history.

Confucius is credited with saying "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." When he founded Christianity, Jesus Christ admonished his followers to "Love your neighbor." More recently, President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural speech said: "... and so my fellow Americans; ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country."

This is saying the same thing in different words. Moreover, one of the definitions of society is a group of people working together for common goals. If we are pro-choice and selfish, then we are not working together and not working towards common goals. As a result, society suffers.



## Looking Out For Number One

Some people complain that they have to look out for themselves because no one else will. Interesting, the statistics are very clear in this area. People who are unselfish, work with others and put others first tend to be healthier, happier, live longer, are less likely to live in poverty or become homeless, and in most cases are less likely to commit crimes or be the victim of crimes. The obvious conclusion is that when we work together for common goals, we all come out ahead. However, when we become pro-choice and selfish, we suffer. Is this what Confucius, Jesus Christ and John F. Kennedy wanted to teach us?

## Desensitization

Many people are willing to acknowledge the Golden Rule and the need for working together. However, almost everyone is pro-choice on some decisions. Confucius, Jesus Christ and President John F. Kennedy did not provide exceptions to their admonishments, so people ask why this criterion should be so inflexible. The reason is desensitization.

The best way to explain this is to go back several years to the argument over whether kids should be allowed to watch violence on television. Most parents were opposed to allowing kids to watch violence on television but could not come up with a technical reason. Liberals said that kids should be allowed to be pro-choice in their viewing options and had a right to watch whatever they wanted. The experts sided with the parents. They noted that as kids watched more and more violence on television, they became desensitized to violence and began to accept it as normal behavior. In effect, desensitization is a technical term for what used to be called "giving bad example."

Desensitization is at work in our society making both kids and adults more permissive and more pro-choice. When people are told that it is acceptable to be pro-choice or permissive, or when they see others being pro-choice and permissive, then they become more pro-choice and permissive themselves. Different people are affected to a greater or lesser degree depending on several factors including how they were brought up and whether they have strong morals or religious beliefs. However, statistics show that people who are more permissive and pro-choice in one area are more likely to be liberal and pro-choice in other areas.

This is not rocket science and has actually been known for decades. For example, youths who are pro-choice about attending school are statistically more likely to be pro-choice about smoking, using drugs, pre-marital sex and breaking the law. The same situation is obvious with adults in that people who are pro-choice in one area are more likely to be pro-choice in other areas.

In effect, selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude spreads through society like germs, pollution and cigarette smoke. What this means to us is that many decisions and actions are interconnected. We do not have several social problems. Instead we have one social problem variously known as liberalism, selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude. Our social problems are the effects, not the cause; they are manifestations of this liberal, permissive, selfish and pro-choice attitude in different areas.

## Above And Beyond

In more recent years, it has become apparent that the liberal, selfish, permissive and pro-choice attitude is not limited to social problems but is actually pervasive in all parts of our society. It affects virtually every attitude, decision and choice we make. Included are such items as marriage, family size, and even the way we vote.

Recent research by demographers Ron Lesthaeghe and John Surkyn in Europe disclosed that people who distrust the army and other institutions and are prone to demonstrate against them are statistically less likely to be married. They are also statistically less likely to ever get married and have children. This same research also discovered that people who find soft drugs, homosexuality and euthanasia acceptable are statistically more likely to live alone or in a childless, marriageless union. It was also not surprising that people who seldom attend church are statistically less likely to be married and have children.

In the United States, Philip Longman pointed out that in progressive Seattle, there are nearly 45% more dogs than kids while in conservative Salt Lake City, there are nearly 19% more kids than dogs. This obvious difference is not due to any shortage of canine breeders in Utah but is based on local fertility levels and ideal family size. Utah, where something like two-thirds of the residents are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, has the highest fertility rate in the United States with 92 children born annually for every 1,000 women.

Going back to the 2004 presidential election, maps on election day showed that liberal states and cities predominately voted for Senator John Kerry while the more conservative areas voted for President George Bush. According to Philip Longman, states that voted for President George Bush had an average of an 11% higher fertility rate than states that voted for Senator John Kerry.

This same situation prevails with other political issues. Vermont, the first state to allow gay unions, has the nation's lowest fertility rate . . . 51 average annual births per 1,000 women.

## How It Works

Your actions and decisions are based on how far you have been desensitized and have accepted selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude. You can look at this as a line from right to left or as percentages from 100 to 0. A person on the far right at 100 will go far out of their way to avoid harming others and will agonize for days if they tell or lie or cannot find enough time to help others. A person on the far left at 0 thinks nothing of murder or genocide, is pro-choice about committing terrible crimes, and thinks only of themselves.

As your position moves from right to left your ideal family size decreases, you become more liberal in voting and elections, you have a reduced belief in right and wrong, and you become pro-choice in more decisions.



Sadly, almost none of us stand at the far right at 100. Virtually all of us are pro-choice on at least some minor things. You may start out by being pro-choice on telling “white” lies and cheating on golf scores. Some people continue with being pro-choice on theft or on sex outside of marriage. Each of these moves you more towards the left. Every action or decision that involves society and other people is along this line somewhere; and apparently in nearly the same order for most people. Eventually, most people reach a point where they finally refuse to be pro-choice and instead start to make decisions based on being unselfish and pro-society. This point indicates your position on how far you accept liberalism, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude.

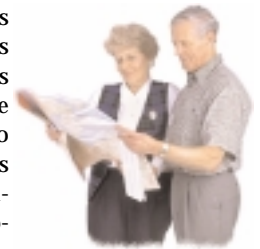


## Sensitize!

Since abortion and other problems have been caused by our society becoming desensitized to selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude, one of the best things we can do is to reverse this process and sensitize people to right and wrong. Make people understand that there are really only two criteria for right and wrong. You can be unselfish and pro-society and make your decision or action based on how it impacts society and other people . . . or you can be selfish, permissive and pro-choice and make your decision or action based on what you want. All you have to do is talk about it because when faced with these two options, almost no one will say that selfishness, permissiveness and pro-choice is right.

## Interconnected, not Independent

One of the foremost arguments of the pro-abortion people is that abortion is a private matter between a woman and her doctor. This is half right. All of our decisions and actions are private because no one else makes them for us and no one else is responsible for them but us. However, the decision to be pro-choice is connected to numerous other permissive and pro-choice decisions and encourages others to be pro-choice in hundreds of other areas including being pro-choice on selling drugs to kids, being pro-choice on breaking the law, and being pro-choice on harming other people.



## The Science and Technology of Permissiveness and Pro-Choice

Some people are already turning this knowledge into a new technology and a science. Some say that they can ask you as few as three or four questions and determine your standpoint on several major issues with a high degree of accuracy. In some areas they can even tell you what your decision would be on issues you may never have thought about. They can also determine whom you are likely to vote for in the next election. I personally tend to doubt the accuracy of this for a single individual but it is obvious that the accuracy gets much better when you are dealing with a larger group of people.

It would not be surprising to learn that among the leaders in research in this area are both U.S. political parties. Political researchers looking back at previous elections are now turning this into a science. Among other things, the political researchers are trying to determine what they have to say or do, or what they should not say or do, to get your vote. They may also be in a position to try to influence your morals to try to get you to vote the way they want.

## Part II - Combating Abortion

Now that you know how everything is interrelated, it opens new avenues for dealing with the pro-choice attitude and abortion. On the negative side, abortion is not an isolated decision but is one manifestation of the selfishness, permissiveness and pro-choice attitude that has desensitized our society. On the positive side, abortion has become an important moral, political and social issue because it is located at a key point on that line from right to left. There are many people who are pro-choice on abortion but stop there instead of continuing more to the left. Hence, any effort that moves our society more to the right will have a significant impact on abortion.



Here is a list of some of the more obvious things you can do in this area.

When you make people understand that pro-choice decisions are not only interconnected but also spread through society through desensitization, they are forced to look at things from a different perspective. For Christians, this is a vindication that Jesus Christ was right when he told us to “Love your neighbor.”

It might help to point out to people that this concept is not really new. Back in the 1840s, Oliver Wendell Holmes did substantial research and showed how germs spread through society. Many people refused to believe him at first because they could not see the germs. Later, we learned about pollution spreading through our atmosphere and waterways. More recently there have been concerns about cigarette smoke harming people around smokers and about engine exhaust gasses causing global warming. As our society grows and matures, we find how things affect us in different ways.

## Reciprocal Rhetoric

People can play games with words. Instead of the pro-abortion people calling their position pro-abortion, they want to call it pro-choice. Actually, if you pardon the pun, this is an excellent *choice* of terms. It means that instead of being unselfish and pro-society, they want to be selfish, permissive, and do what they want regardless of whom gets hurt.



In order to show the pro-abortion people what “pro-choice” really means, we should use it as much as we can. Hence, we can talk about people who are pro-choice on selling drugs to kids, we can talk

about people who are pro-choice about breaking the law, we can also talk about people who are pro-choice about murder, slavery, incest, rape and numerous other things that will remind people what “pro-choice” really means.

## Diversity

One of the oft-heard arguments of the liberals is that diversity is a good thing. It may be true that accepting diversity in things you cannot control may be a good thing. However, diversity in things you can control is often bad.

For more than 150 years the United States did well and had few social problems. This was in spite of the fact that there was substantial diversity in the nationality, heritage, and customs of many new citizens. However, there was no diversity in their criterion for right and wrong. Most of them agreed that it was correct and proper to be unselfish and do what was best for others and society. Our social problems did not start until some people decided to be selfish, permissive and pro-choice.

I could quote statistics but simple logic will tell you this is true. A simple definition of society is a group of people working together for common goals. What would happen to a wagon pulled by four horses if one horse wanted to go north, another south, the third east and the last one west? Obviously, the wagon would go nowhere and might even get damaged. Likewise, for our society to move ahead and improve, we all have to be pulling in the same direction. The only logical direction that everyone can pull in is to be unselfish and pro-society because if people are pro-choice, they are pulling in different directions. This is why pro-choice decisions are the cause of social problems.

## Peer Pressure

It might not surprise you to know that you are responsible for some of the pro-choice attitude and abortion going on around us. For generations, it was peer pressure that kept people in line and discouraged them from being selfish, permissive and pro-choice. Moms and dads, aunts and uncles as well as the adults around you, would continually remind you of right and wrong and chastise you if you stepped out of line. That group of little old ladies at the back of church may have had their faults, but they certainly kept track of who was stepping out of line and often spoke up about it. Unfortunately, people no longer do that.

Today, people hear the pro-choice message from the press, television and liberal population telling them that it is fine to be selfish, permissive and pro-choice. In comparison, conservative people have become quiet and are no longer heard. Hence, because of your failure to speak out, people are only hearing the liberal side of things.

In addition to speaking out on abortion, make sure you also speak out on any other pro-choice decisions. Encourage marriage over co-habitation and live-in relationships, encourage people to attend church, and encourage people to keep sex in marriage.

## Talk About It

One of the major reasons why selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude had spread through our society is because people are afraid to talk about it for fear of offending others. For decades and probably centuries, selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude had been kept in check by peer pressure and social disapproval. It was wrong to be selfish, permissive and pro-choice; if you did something wrong, other people would let you know.

When is the last time you talked about a criterion for right and wrong with your children. Have you ever talked about a criterion for right and wrong with your friends? Have you ever discussed how the spread of selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude has changed our society for the worse?

This is a very simple decision. People who talk about a criterion for right and wrong and who talk about how selfishness, permissiveness and the pro-choice attitude spreads through our society are helping the situation by moving everyone more towards the right. People who do not talk about it are allowing our society to move more towards the left. Which way do you want to see our society go? Remember that you can hate the sin but love the sinner.

## Talking Politics

Politics may be more involved in all of this than you think. Consider the fact that liberals keep trying to change morals in our society by court order rather than by public vote. It would be a very good idea to approach your political candidates and ask them which criterion for right and wrong they support: unselfish and pro-society, or selfish, permissive and pro-choice. If you do get them to answer, it most likely will not be on the side of being pro-choice. You might also ask them whether they feel it is acceptable to be pro-choice on abortion, selling drugs to kids, and breaking the law.



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