

***Soli Deo Gloria* – Glory to God alone**

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

In this email we delve into why certain conservative causes such as the ProLife movement have not achieved the lasting victory that our Lord Jesus would provide. But first we want to share with you something about ourselves. Both *spiritually* and *politically* we would consider ourselves to be very conservative. In this we believe with absolute certainty that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God and the authoritative reference to guide our lives. In relation to politics, as followers of our Lord Jesus we are ***Bible-based Constitutionalists***, especially in upholding that document's Preamble. We abhor the liberal politics in this nation, particularly the penchant to support immorality in its various forms. Maybe it's occurred to you as well that the liberal social agenda is not that different than the ***social gospel, pp.3,4*** which is the primary tool of outreach in so much of contemporary Christianity.

Having said this, please know that we are not registered Republicans either. We've found that too many within the party's ranks rely on decidedly unChrist-like platforms undergirded by ***self-righteous indignation, conspiracies, bigotry*** and ***hatred***. Even more pointedly for us, these sinful attitudes which simmer beneath the surface of so many self-identified conservatives have forestalled the victory that our Lord Jesus would give on behalf of causes which align with God's Word, such as saving the life of an unborn child.

If the political rancor is negatively influencing your view of people who don't agree with you, we want to cite once again the essential attributes which those who belong to our Lord Jesus must possess: ***love, forgiveness*** and ***compassion***. We've often reminded you to implore the indwelling Holy Spirit to instill in you these Christ-like character qualities. ***If*** you are following Jesus as Lord of your life, you're required to keep the two "Greatest Commandments" which He specifically pinpointed: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Luke 10:27, apperceived from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18; see also Galatians 5:14). Again, having a heart motive of love for your Lord and for your neighbor is made possible by the indwelling Holy Spirit ***if*** you seek that from Him. The Hebrew word for love in Deuteronomy 6:5 is *ahav* (ah-hahv'), which conveys a passion and devotion for the one you love. The Hebrew letters in *ahav* traditionally mean ***"a window into the Father's heart."*** We hope that it's a precious value to you that your Father's redemptive heart for *all* humanity would describe your heart as well.

If you were there at that time to personally hear our Lord Jesus cite Deuteronomy 6:5 to an audience who took the Hebrew Bible seriously, you would have understood that *your love for God* must be interlaced with a *love for others* (1John 4:7,8). To love your Lord as well as the people for whom He died demands that you don't allow yourself an antagonistic attitude toward any other human being (2Timothy 2:23-26). Keep this in mind as you read our explanation of why there is such virulence in politics these days and why the battle regarding abortion in particular has raged on for decades.

"In this world we are like Jesus" (1John 4:17)

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you" (Luke 10:19; see also John 14:12).
"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

For nearly 50 years the perceived right to an abortion has been an emotionally explosive political

issue severely dividing this nation. And why has victory in saving unborn children been so elusive? Consider that many Protestant conservatives as well as many Roman Catholics have engaged this issue primarily by supporting political candidates and legislation which favor ProLife. BUT they have failed to achieve lasting victory because they've lacked a **unified spiritual understanding** by which our Lord Jesus would stand with them and give them lasting victory. **If** those who belong to our Lord Jesus had initially confronted the abortion issue with the specific guidance of the Spirit of our Lord (*rhema*) and obeyed His way of achieving victory, multiple millions more unborn children who are imbued with a spirit given to them by God at conception would be alive today.

Take this to heart: Saving an unborn child is foremost a *spiritual issue* because you are contending on behalf of a human being who possesses a spirit given by God and longs to return to Him. Returning to Him is made possible when a person authentically trusts in the shed blood of Jesus on their behalf and is born again. This is also a spiritual issue in that this is a battle against the demonic forces which are using abortionists to murder the unborn baby. (See Deuteronomy 20:4; Ephesians 6:10-18.) Even with the possibility that the Supreme Court is leaning to support ProLife policy, there will be no lasting victory until this heinous sin is confronted in accordance with the authority and spiritual power that our Lord Jesus gives His followers. For *His Name's sake* is the biblical/spiritual reason we contend on behalf of the unborn child.

Most Christians who are battling abortion don't have in mind the glory of God alone. Not only is *glory of God* not even considered; also missing is *Christ's redemptive concern for the abortionists and their desperate need to repent and find forgiveness*. We cited the unChrist-like attitude of many conservatives in our previous email:

Satan has deceived all too many [conservative Christians] into practicing **hate-saturated, self-righteous indignation**. They view themselves as being more righteous than the liberals are, and therefore more accepted by God.

How did so many conservatives succumb to unChrist-like attitudes against others?

We wrote several decades ago that the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), the bastion of conservatives, was dominated by **divorced men** who had failed to exemplify the **love, forgiveness** and **compassion** of our Lord Jesus. These men hid behind a facade of self-righteous indignation in CPAC, converting many "conservatives" to adopt their unChrist-like acrimony.

During Mike's years of counseling clergy (1983-93) he found that he was unable to deter those men who were bringing about their own divorce through **stiff-necked pride**. Later some of these same men found an opportunity to pursue acclaim through CPAC by using **hate-saturated, self-righteous indignation**.

Also, beginning in the 1980s political commentator Rush Limbaugh gained prominence by infusing **self-righteous indignation, conspiracy theories, bigotry** and **hate** into political/Christian conservatism. In the decades after, white racists including the KKK found no difference between political/Christian conservatism and themselves – both exemplified bigotry and hate.

"Justice and human dignity are highly overrated!"



Rush Limbaugh popularized and politicized **self-righteous indignation, conspiracy theories, bigotry** and **hate** long before Donald Trump's political ascent. Limbaugh imbued the vitriolic lambasting that now dominates the Republican Party. And Trump learned from Limbaugh that societal/racial/cultural grievances could be used and manipulated more effectively than conservative political ideology.

Glory to God alone!

"I am the LORD; that is My Name! I will not yield My glory to another or My praise to idols" (Isaiah 42:8).

There's another crucial reason why there has been no lasting victory in the abortion battle. It's because many Roman Catholics who venerate/adore/worship/pray to Mary, the mother of Jesus, got heavily involved in the ProLife movement. A "mixed loyalty" was evidenced as many Catholics relied on the intervention of Mary as they prayed rather than trusting solely on the intercession of our Lord Jesus at the right hand of our Father to answer (Romans 8:34). It's important to realize that Catholic theology about Mary is totally incompatible with the biblical beliefs of our Lord's followers who seek to serve and glorify our Father and His Son alone (John 14:13):

In Roman Catholic dogma, Mary is given the title *Theotokos* – "the one who gives birth to God". She is exalted in prayer as "holy Mary, mother of God". Among the majority of other Christians, Mary is *Christotokos* – "the one who gives birth to Christ". She is the mother of Jesus in His humanity. But Jesus is the only One alongside His Father to be prayed to and glorified. When our God declares, *"I will not yield My glory to another"*, this "another" includes the idolatry of praying to and adoring Mary. (For further insight into the demonic origin of Mary worship and her veneration as Queen of Heaven, see Lifebyte 62, *Does Your Marriage Reflect Your Covenant With Our Father?*).

The Virgin Mary is believed by many Roman Catholics to be an essential partner in the redemption of humanity.



"Hail Mary" is a prayer of praise and petition to Mary, who is regarded by Catholics as the *Theotokos* (Mother of God). The prayer closes with an appeal for her intercession.

With Roman Catholics involved in the abortion battle and turning to Mary, and with Protestants relying on unChrist-like, non-redemptive self-righteous indignation, our Lord would not stand with those who sought to save unborn babies as He was being misrepresented. And, *if* in the beginning of the controversy those who stood up for the life of the unborn child had repented en masse and been cleansed from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9), they would have likely found our Lord Jesus would stand with them and that our Father would have listened to their prayers, producing lasting victory! (See 1Chronicles 7:14; 1Peter 3:12.)

***"Whether you turn to the right or to the left,
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,
'This is the way; walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21).***

We have one last point to make about why ProLife has achieved no lasting victory at this time. Several times in the past we've written that our Lord Jesus' followers must live **obedience-based**, not **outcome-based**. Obedience-based living requires you to be indwelt by the Spirit of our Lord, turning to Him for the specific guidance He will reveal as His method to fight the battle. Being obedience-based is a foolproof way for you to reveal your trusting obedience in your Lord Jesus. And always keep in the forefront of your heart and mind that it's *His purpose* you are fulfilling, not the objective that you thought you would accomplish on His behalf (see Romans 8:27,28; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:13).

(For further insight into characteristics you need in order to collectively achieve victory, see *“Put on Love, Which Binds Them All Together in Perfect Unity”*).

The methodology of many Christian endeavors is **outcome-based**. This is especially true in Christian involvement in the battle against abortion. In outcome-based endeavors, people view themselves as doing something on behalf of God even if they haven't discerned from Him that He is directing them to take that particular step. And putting Jesus in the position of co-pilot Who is just going along with you for the ride is highly insulting, to say the least. If HE isn't the pilot, then maybe you need to get out of the plane!

Outcome-based Theology
"We're doing this for you, Lord, but *doing it our way*. Please bless us."

**JESUS
IS MY CO-PILOT**

In your efforts to save the unborn, you urgently need to discern your Father's will for each step you take. God isn't obligated to bless your endeavor if He hasn't directed you to do it. Often what happens in outcome-based ministries is that any 'Tom, Dick or Harriet' can join them in their cause regardless if that person is in righteous standing from our Lord's perspective. Please realize this biblical truth: Our Lord has a line of distinction as to whom He will stand with: "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ... What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" (2Corinthians 6:14,15).

***"With God we will gain the victory,
and HE will trample down our enemies"*** (Psalms 60:12).

We've noted previously that David as well as many others in the Bible whom our Lord caused to be victorious were not only chosen by Him. Each also had His specific divine guidance (*rhema*) before they took action. With His guidance came His miraculous power resulting in His glory (see Exodus 4:17 and the ten miracles God did through Moses; Joshua 10:8-14; 2Samuel 5:18-25; Isaiah 38:4-8). Seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and doing things His way always results in Him standing with you and giving you victory. And no matter what you are going through, His Spirit is the Source for the grace you need no matter what the outcome.

When the Spirit of our Lord reveals His specific will to you and you obey, all the resources of heaven will support you. And with divine help giving you lasting victory, praising our Lord Jesus is inescapable. Glory to God alone!

Mike & Sue

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 15:5,6).