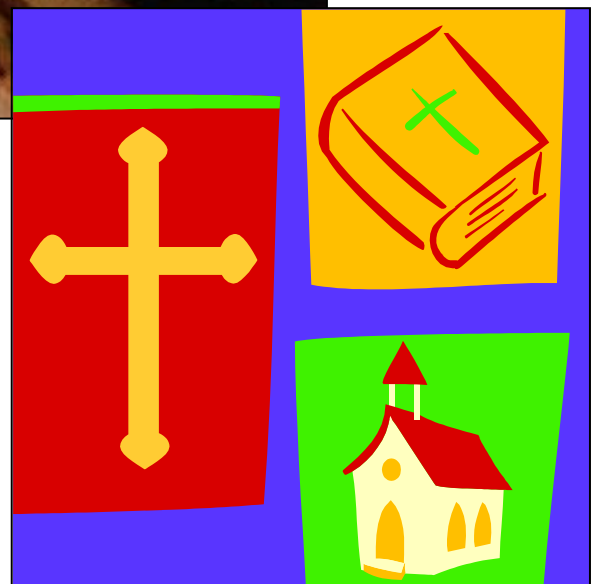


Abortion Bloodshed and the Church

**An Urgent Message for Pastors
And all Christians**



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Is Abortion Today's Child Sacrifice?

In Ezekiel's day child sacrifice had become something even God's people were engaging in, a practice they had observed in their pagan neighbors. Their abhorrent practice is described in Psalm 106.

³⁷They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. ³⁸They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was desecrated by their blood. ³⁹They defiled themselves by what they did..."

God Clearly Identifies the Sin and Instructs Ezekiel

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²"Son of man, will you judge her? Will you judge this city of bloodshed? Then confront her with all her detestable practices ³and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O city that brings on herself doom by shedding blood in her midst and defiles herself by making idols, ⁴you have become guilty because of the blood you have shed and have become defiled by the idols you have made. (Ezek 22:1-4)

The Lord Looking for a Few Good Men

³⁰"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. ³¹So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD." (Ezek 22:30-3

Historically great walls were built around cities to prevent enemy assaults, assuring the safety of the city. Often however, because of successful assaults of the enemy, the walls were broken, leaving gaps or breaches where the enemy could penetrate. These gaps were places of vulnerability, which required brave men to occupy on behalf of the safety of the people. In the above plea, God is seeking for a man who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Him.



Will We Build a Wall of Truth?

I along with many Christian leaders today see the evil of abortion, or the shedding of innocent blood, as the most significant moral issue of our day. It is in fact a holocaust. It is genocide against our most innocent and our most helpless. 50 million American preborn babies have been legally murdered and discarded as waste following the 1973 Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton Supreme court decisions. This shedding of innocent blood has caused great breaches in the walls of our churches, our families, our culture and our governments. Where is the outcry, the indignation, the saving action of the church in America? God help us!

God is calling us to the wall. We must respond to His requirements in these seven significant ways:

(1) We are to be wall builders.

I believe God was and is looking for Christians, men and women who know and live God's truth to build walls of truth and warning. *Easton's Bible Dictionary* comments: "The false prophets did not stand in the gap (Ezek. 22:30), i.e., they did nothing to stop the outbreak of wickedness." The true prophet warns. Unfortunately today in America true prophets, like those of old, are being told to "shut up." It seems as if so many of today's Christians want to hear ear tickling messages and become angry when the truth about the abortion holocaust is mentioned in the church. This condition has lulled most of the American church into complacency, leaving our walls with many gaps.

I believe the Lord also wants these walls of truth because they keep His people from rushing out through the gaps to engage in pagan sin. This is demonstrated by the Prophet Amos who spoke God's warning to a rebellious and sin-laden people, telling them that they were going out through the breaks in the wall to Bethel and Gidal to "*sin yet more.*" (Amos 4:3-4) Statistics show that women in the church are having abortions in significant numbers and our men who have violated them, drive them to the abortion mills to see their "problem" go away. Is it possible that large numbers of our people in the American church are today running away through these gaps because men of God have too often failed to stand in them, speaking the truth about sin and warning of the consequences. Perhaps this is best illustrated by the move toward Sunday services rarely mentioning sin, but rather offering series of useful or practical sermons having an appeal to the people but which fail to speak and warn concerning the abortion bloodshed and its terrible consequences.

(2) We are to stand in the gap in prayer

Secondly, God wants Christians to stand in the gap as intercessors, holding up pastors and church leaders in prayer. In this case it is not to prevent the enemy from rushing in or the people rushing out, but rather the practice of frequent and fervent prayer, intercession, pleas to God to not judge the people and the nations for their rebellion and gross sins. Our prayers must also be prayers that *we* as a people will humble ourselves repent of *our sin*, turn from *our wicked ways*, that God might heal our land (II Chron. 7:14). Too often we have misdirected our prayers, asking God to change things out there, when it is we who must change before He will answer. For example: We may fervently pray God will close down an abortion clinic, or stop this or that from happening. I believe however that many of these prayers are not answered as we hope because God is looking for us, His Bride, to respond to His clear requirements in Scripture before He will carry out His will. We are quick to blame the devil, the ACLU, the politicians, the media, etc, but repeatedly fail to see our own sins of participation and silence. Clearly we must ask God to open *our* eyes, to see as He sees and to hear as He hears. Only then will we receive the clear direction of the Holy Spirit to stand, speak and act, as He would have us.

Today, more than half of the abortions in America are being performed on women who profess the faith of Christianity. I have met them at the abortion mills. They have rushed through the gaps of truth and silence in the walls of the church and our culture right into the arms of today's Moloch's, the Planned Parenthoods here in Sacramento, Roseville and across America. Most have never heard their pastor warn them about the sin of abortion or how this sin defiles the person, the community and the nation.



(3) We must speak the truth in love and not try to be nicer than Jesus

We must tell the truth. We must warn. Sin must be clearly identified as sin. Murder as prohibited in the Ten Commandments must be called murder. We should not try to make our words nicer or kinder than those used by Jesus or in the Bible. We must speak the truth with love and humility, but always with truth. There is no other way to describe it. In our sermons, intercessory prayer meetings, at conferences, in church, or wherever, we must not avoid the topic of abortion because so many have been injured by it. Of course our discussion must be made with kindness and grace, always reminding our listeners of God's desire to forgive and heal. Silence will only ensure this sin will be passed from generation to generation. We should provide healing ministries or opportunities for post-abortive women (and men). Warning, truth telling, and exposing injustice will never replace providing for the wounded. Mercy must be coupled with doing justice (Mic 6:8). To treat the wounded is merciful. To *not* cry out for justice for the unborn is a sin of omission and the wounded will just keep coming in for treatment while the unjust practices keep on wounding.

Paul Weighs in on Truth Telling

Today in America, many Christians and their leaders reject and renounce clear and unambiguous teaching about abortion because there are so many "hurting women" in the congregation. Paul was not speaking about abortion but it is denial to say that abortion is not the most profound legalized evil of our day. Paul was often rejected for telling the truth to the brethren. He realized that confronting evil and sin would not make him popular.

Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? (Gal 4:16)

Paul taught this clearly about bringing the most evil sins into the open.

"Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, rebuke and expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. ¹³But when the light shines on them, it becomes clear how evil these things are." (Eph 5:11-13).

"I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 9:1)

(4) We must be watchmen, sounding a clear warning about the sin of abortion.... Pastors and church leaders must understand, there is a grave cost of not Warning

When pastors, prophets, teachers, leaders, intercessors and counselors fail to speak the truth and warn, we are accountable. Listen:

*The word of the LORD came to me: ²"Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: 'When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, ³and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, ⁴then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head. ⁵Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself. ⁶But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, **but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.**' ⁷"Son of man, I have made you a*

watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways that wicked man will die for[£] his sin and I will hold you accountable for his blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself." (Ezek 33:1-9)

(5) Pastors must speak truthfully about the abortion holocaust from their pulpits and equip their congregations for spiritual warfare and action

Pastors must not avoid speaking about abortion because so many have participated in an abortion decision and suffered as a result of it. Pastors must repent of the idea and practice of not showing their congregations what this abortion holocaust looks like. One wise pastor has said that "America will not end abortion until she sees what it looks like." The dark evil of abortion must be brought into the light

Abortion is not an unforgivable sin. Pastors, who speak humbly with wisdom and sensitivity, must bring this issue out of the closet and into the open. Post-abortive women (and men) who have found forgiveness and healing in Christ must be allowed to testify before the congregation. Unfortunately, those few who will angrily walk out of church will keep their pain. Those who remain have the opportunity to receive complete forgiveness in Christ and hopefully, a church that provides a loving environment and ministry designed to bring total healing and restoration to the post-abortive wounded. Clouds of suppressed guilt and emotion will be lifted from individuals and the church. God will be pleased and we will have repaired a major break in our walls.



(6) We must confront the evil of abortion where it takes place

Christians must continue to confront evil as it exists in the culture, whether it is slavery, child exploitation or child killing. Slavery was a terrible injustice in America and it prevailed in our society far too long because Christians not only held slaves, the silence of those who disagreed with it insured that it would remain long past the time it should have ended. Today, child killing by abortion is taking place in buildings in our community, many surrounded by churches which have never addressed abortion in the pulpit or taken prayer and proclamation to the nearby abortion mill. How is this explained by a people who are to care "for the least of these?" Are not the little boys and girls in the womb our neighbors? Are we not much like the Priest and the Levite who walked across the street to pass by the man who was bleeding after having been robbed and beaten on his way to Jericho? Why is it that today the religious leaders are still walking by? They will have no excuse.

"Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done? (Pr 24:11)

(7) Christians must vote and participate in their government

Government is God's idea and politics is not dirty unless through our non-participation, ungodly men and women control them. Pastors have a grave responsibility to equip their congregations to understand that our freedoms in this country are God given and that our responsibility to vote for men and women of character who value freedom and justice for all, especially the right to life and liberty, is our duty. "Christians" have voted for presidents and legislators at every level of government who endorse and vote for abortion rights. Pastor, how much responsibility do you and your silence bear?

LET'S END THE EXCUSES

The church in American has no excuse. Fifty million children made in the image of God have perished in the American holocaust since 1973 with great percentages of them having been eliminated by moms and dads professing to be Christian. The silence of the church bears great responsibility. If we are to see revival and restoration in the church and our culture, we must cry out in repentance and humility and then begin ministry in our congregations and at the abortion mills. Small numbers of prolife Christians across America, whose ministry at the abortion mills and whose presence and love have saved thousands, will welcome you with open arms and train you for ministry. Are you qualified? If you have these qualities, you are: You love God with all of your heart, mind and strength and your neighbor as yourself. _____

The author, H.A. "Bud" Reeves is a retired U.S. NCIS Special Agent who co-founded SOHLNET IN 1993 and has served as its president since 1998. Bud received his B.S. in Criminal Justice in 1964 and B.A. in Ministerial Studies at Trinity Life Bible College in 2004. He is available to speak at church meetings and may be contacted via email at harbud@surewest.net ...www.sohl.net.org. or www.sohl.net.facebook.com

