

THE BIRMINGHAM PROCLAMATION | PREAMBLE

Presently, 125,000 children are destroyed by abortion every day worldwide. In our own nation, over 3,000 are destroyed each day. And, in the state of Alabama, 16 children are destroyed in the womb every single day. What should be the safest place in the world for a child to grow – her own mother's womb – has become a place of deadly violence. This cannot be ignored by the church.

As shepherds of our city, we the pastors and clergy of Birmingham, Alabama, cannot remain silent in the face of such evil. Even as Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, continues building a mega-center dedicated to surgical and medical abortion in our downtown, we have determined to unite under one banner – that is the banner of Christ – and defend our Jerusalem. Just as Nehemiah commanded the Israelites to build with one hand and defend with the other, we shall build up a Culture of Life in our city. We will defend the lives of preborn children, desperate mothers, and all those targeted by the abortion industry.

There was a time in our past when Birmingham failed to protect and defend the humanity of a group of targeted people. Birmingham is known the world over as a place that denied the humanity of others with force and intimidation. During the struggle for civil rights, our city shamefully failed to protect our African American brothers and sisters. We are determined not to let that happen again.

In the face of one of the greatest injustices the world has ever witnessed, the atrocity of abortion, we will respond with love, respect, and courage. We will do everything we can to protect the most defenseless among us, and to ensure that each and every person has an equal right to life, from conception to natural death.

It has not gone unnoticed by us, with deep sorrow, that the abortion industry disproportionately targets African American children. If Birmingham does not act to protect these children now, then our city will have failed them twice.

Birmingham is where we make our stand. Abortion is not welcome here. Planned Parenthood is not welcome here. We declare this city a sanctuary for preborn children and for their mothers and fathers, and will work in prayer and unity to keep it abortion-free. For that reason, we present the following Proclamation.

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WHEREAS the Word of God tells us that every human being is made in His image and according to His likeness (Gen. 1:26); and

WHEREAS the life of every human being begins in the womb of a mother and God forms and completes them there (Ps. 139:13-15); and

WHEREAS God commands that every human being's life is to be treated with respect and honor (Lev. 19:18; Luke 10:25-37); and

WHEREAS God forbids the shedding of innocent blood because "God made man in His own image" (Gen. 9:6); and

WHEREAS the atrocity of abortion has denied children in the womb this respect and honor, and has shed their innocent blood, claiming over 60 million preborn lives in America since 1973, and continuing to claim 16 innocent lives a day in the state of Alabama and 125,000 each day worldwide; and

WHEREAS it is incumbent upon those who give honor to God to love and respect every human life (1 Pet. 2:17); and

WHEREAS by the longsuffering of God, His judgment on the violence done in the womb against the preborn has been withheld (Ezek. 20:17; 2 Pet. 3:9); and

WHEREAS all that is necessary for evil to thrive is for the righteous to remain silent (Isa. 62:6-7; Rom. 12:9); and

WHEREAS our silence is condoning and permitting evil against the preborn (Prov. 24:11-12; Eph. 5:11-12); and

WHEREAS we are commanded to proclaim and represent the Truth of the Word of God, especially on behalf of "the poor and the needy," and there are no people more needy than babies in the womb (Prov. 31:8-9); and

WHEREAS we as pastors, in order to truly lead, must address the devastation that abortion has wrought in our communities, especially among African American families who have borne the most severe impact.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the undersigned representatives of the Body of Christ and shepherds of our city, make this declaration of God's Word as Truth that is not to be transgressed or violated without the risk of divine judgment:

WE RESOLVE to stand and proclaim the sanctity of life given by God in the womb and to defend the cause of the innocent preborn by uniting as one and declaring the injustice of their murder, recognizing that their blood cries out to God (Gen. 4:10).

WE RESOLVE to aid those whom society forgets, especially the preborn who have been denied their right to life and stripped of the dignity which God has given them.

WE RESOLVE to support parents and children in difficult life circumstances, helping to provide basic needs of mother and child and promoting adoption and foster care. We will continue to facilitate ministries for women and men who have participated in or been affected by abortion, recognizing that even as the church is called to protect preborn children, we are also called to be a refuge and place of healing for the many others affected by this rampant atrocity.

WE RESOLVE to declare to all those who have been caught up in the sin of abortion that God forgives this and every sin if we turn to Him in His love and compassion. He "is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Num. 14:18). God will never turn away those who confess and repent (1 John 1:9).

WE RESOLVE to warn all that God is not only compassionate but also holy. His righteous judgment is pending and will certainly be executed according to His divine will unless we repent and return to the understanding that every life is sacred, at every stage of development, and must be protected. God judged Egypt and Edom because they "shed innocent blood" (Joel 3:19); we should not presume that we will be spared from similar judgment of our national sin of abortion (Ezek. 16:20-22, 43).

WE FURTHER RESOLVE to oppose any business, organization or entity that aims to expand the abortion industry in our city, declaring this city a sanctuary for preborn children and pregnant mothers, and denouncing any and all violence against children in the womb. By speaking truth, in love, we will continue to expose the abortion industry and those who wish to perpetuate a culture of death. We will support those in our community and state who uphold, advance and defend the sanctity of life.