

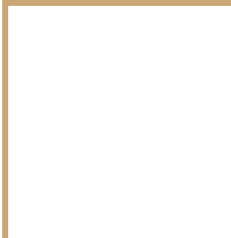


Not Pro-life. Abolitionist.

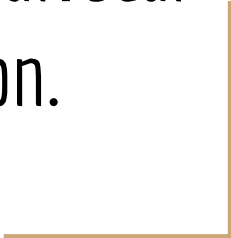
“You may choose to look the other way but you
can never say again that you did not know.”

— **William Wilberforce**





The pro-life
establishment does not
support Equal Protection
or desire the unequivocal
end of abortion.



Our reasoning must be grounded in God's law

1. Every human being is made in the image of God
 - Genesis 1:26-27
 - James 3:9
2. Human life begins at conception
 - Psalm 139:13-16
3. Murder is the unlawful taking of innocent human life
 - Genesis 9:6
 - Jeremiah 22:3
4. Abortion is murder
 - Psalm 106:37-38 - The idol of our culture is self-centered individualism

Equal Protection is required by God's law

- God requires fairness in the administration of justice
 - Leviticus 19:15 & Deuteronomy 16:19-20
 - Proverbs 20:10
- Equal Protection means applying the law consistently for all human beings regardless of age or gender
- The ideal of the 14th Amendment has not yet been realized in any State
 - "...nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws"

Didn't 14 states pass abortion bans?

- 10 states have passed legislation making abortion illegal only for providers
- 4 states have passed legislation making abortion mostly illegal for providers
 - including exceptions for rape/incest
- All 14 supposed “abortion-bans” include exceptions allowing for self-administered abortions
 - most commonly via the abortion pill (available easily through the mail)
- These laws are unequal weights and measures

Kentucky KRS 311.772 (5)

“Nothing in this section may be construed to subject the pregnant mother upon whom any abortion is performed or attempted to any criminal conviction and penalty” (emphasis added)

Objection: Women are also victims of abortion

- Equal protection laws do not target women. They simply do not include exceptions.
- The justice system exists to consider the facts and nuances of individual cases
 - Homicide laws already take into account mental state, coercion, self-defense, and ignorance.
- Equal Protection for children would not prevent showing compassion and care for women in terrible situations
 - Compassion and mercy are available to sinners. But laws must be consistent.
 - John 8:1-11 - "Go, and from now on sin no more"
- The law educates about God's moral standards
- Not all women are victims...

#shoutyourabortion

“COURTS CANNOT STOP SAFE ABORTIONS FROM HAPPENING - ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE HAVE ABORTION PILLS. ” (emphasis added)

<https://shoutyourabortion.com/abortion-pills/>

A person commits first degree murder in Colorado if:

a) After deliberation and with the intent to cause the death of a person other than himself, he causes the death of that person or of another person; or

...

f) The person knowingly causes the death of a child who has not yet attained twelve years of age and the person committing the offense is one in a position of trust with respect to the victim.

C.R.S 18-3-102 (1) (Colorado Criminal Code)

Objection: It is not politically feasible

- Compromising truth undermines the integrity of God's word
 - Joshua 1:8-9
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
- Compromising when you know the truth is fundamentally dishonest.
 - Zechariah 8:16 - Truthfulness is associated with justice.
- William Wilberforce introduced bill after bill that was not politically feasible for over 40 years before slavery was finally abolished 3 days before his death.

Objection: A little is better than nothing (incrementalism)

- The lie is exposed when so-called “pro-life” organizations oppose Equal Protection laws
 - HB 813 Abolition of Abortion in Louisiana Act of 2022
 - The bill was killed by the “pro-life” establishment (Louisiana Right to Life, etc)
- The Bible has much to say about integrity and compromising truth for expedience
 - Proverbs 23:23
 - Proverbs 11:3
 - Ephesians 4:25
 - Psalm 15

Health Related Objections

- Miscarriages
 - Homicide laws apply to **living** human beings
 - No Equal Protection measure would apply to children who die naturally either inside or outside the womb
- Ectopic pregnancies and other health issues for the mother
 - In most ectopic pregnancies the child has already died by the time it is discovered
 - Treating a mother may require delivering a child early but it never requires intentionally killing them
 - Doctors may ethically do what is necessary to treat the mother but must also make every attempt to save the child

Health Related Objections

- In vitro fertilization (IVF)
 - Embryos are genetically complete human beings
 - Standard IVF procedures result in many embryos most of which remain unused and are discarded (killed)
 - Ethical IVF - The number of embryos created is limited and all embryos are eventually implanted

What can I do?

- Help those who claim to be pro-life understand the Biblical foundations of Equal Protection
- Consider using terms such as Abolitionist instead of Pro-life
- Be prepared to address objections from “pro-life” leaders
- Support organizations committed to abolition instead of the pro-life establishment

Additional Resources

- End Abortion Now - <https://endabortionnow.com/>
 - "The Fatal Flaw: Lies, Laws, & Pro-life Deception" Documentary - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k33epqzJlIM>
- Abolitionists Rising - <https://abolitionistsrising.com/>
 - Pro-life vs abolitionist debate with Joel Berry (Babylon Bee) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOYyrOiu2kQ>
 - Free the States - <https://freethestates.org>

Introduction

- I believe we are at a pivotal point in the fight against abortion.
 - In some regard there has been movement toward protecting unborn children with the Supreme Court overturning Roe v Wade.
 - On the other hand, I fear many have lost clarity on what it means to oppose abortion.
- This discussion is timely due to the introduction of Initiative 81.¹
 - Initiative 81 is the first abolitionist ballot initiative introduced in Colorado.
 - Previous “pro-life” initiatives have been introduced but none offered Equal Protection for unborn children.
- My experience:
 - I once considered myself a “pro-life” libertarian and supported certain exceptions and an incrementalist approach to ending abortion.
 - Becoming the church ambassador for Life Network provided the opportunity to learn more and consider various arguments against abortion.
 - I always believed the end goal of the pro-life establishment was the unequivocal abolition of abortion.
 - Unfortunately the overturning of Roe v Wade exposed the lie.

The pro-life establishment does not believe in Equal Protection or desire the unequivocal end of abortion.

- This is a bold and shocking claim but it is backed by growing mountains of evidence.²
- There are so-called pro-life organizations in Colorado who are actively working against Initiative 81.
- Those circulating the Initiative 81 petition have or soon will experience this first-hand.
- My goal is to clearly define Equal Protection from a biblical perspective and address some of the objections you may hear from people who claim to be pro-life.
- This discussion is for those who believe God’s law applies to our lives today.

Our reasoning must be grounded in God’s law.

Here are four major truths that lay the foundation for a discussion of Equal Protection. Many, if not most

¹ <https://www.gotaheart.org/text>

² <https://abolitionistsrising.com/rep-steven-holt-says-iowa-should-not-abolish-abortion/>
<https://abolitionistsrising.com/kevin-stitt-comes-out-against-dusty-deevers-abolition-of-abortion-act/>
<https://prolifelouisiana.org/forward-for-life-hb-813-explained/>

The Fatal Flaw: Lies, Laws, & Pro-life Deception - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k33epqzJlIM>

pro-life Christians would claim to agree with these truths.

1. Every human being is made in the image of God.

- Genesis 1:26-27 (original creation account):

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

*²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them"*

- James 3:9 (taming the tongue):

⁹ "With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God."

2. Human life begins at conception.

- Psalm 139:13-16 (the insurmountable knowledge of God):

*¹³ For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

*¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.*

*¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

*¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them."*

3. Murder is the unlawful taking of innocent human life.

- Genesis 9:6 (God's renewed covenant with Noah):

*⁶ "Whoever sheds the blood of man,
by man shall his blood be shed,
for God made man in his own image."*

- Jeremiah 22:3 (God's message to the king of Judah)

³ Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

4. Abortion is murder.

- Psalm 106:37-38 (God gave the Israelites over to all manner of evil because of their disobedience):

*⁵ They sacrificed their sons
and their daughters to the demons;*

³⁸ *they poured out innocent blood,
the blood of their sons and daughters,
whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan,
and the land was polluted with blood.*

- The idol of our culture is self-centered individualism.

Equal Protection is required by God's law.

- God requires fairness in business dealings and the administration of justice.
 - Leviticus 19:15 & Deuteronomy 16:19-20"

¹⁵ *"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."* (Lev 19:15)

¹⁹ *You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. 20 Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you."* (Deut 16:19-20)
 - Proverbs 20:10:

¹⁰ *"Unequal weights and unequal measures
are both alike an abomination to the Lord."*
- Equal Protection means applying the law consistently for all human beings regardless of age or gender.
- The 14th amendment reads in part *"nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."*
 - Just as the ideal of the Declaration of Independence "All men are created equal" took over 100 years to be realized (in regard to slavery), the 14th amendment has yet to be fully realized in any State.

Have some states passed abortion bans post-Roe?

- 14 States have passed "abortion-ban" legislation. However...
 - 10 states made it illegal for providers only.
 - 4 states have exceptions for rape/incest.
- Self-administered Abortion is still permitted in all 50 states.
- Abortion pills are easily accessible through the mail.
- There are no consequences, even in the most pro-life states, for killing your own child or even forcing someone else to kill their own child.
- These laws are unequal weights and measures.
- In fact, all 14 laws explicitly carve out exceptions allowing mothers to kill their children with impunity.

- For example, here is the exception contained in the trigger law in Kentucky:
 - **“Nothing in this section may be construed to subject the pregnant mother upon whom any abortion is performed or attempted to any criminal conviction and penalty”** (emphasis added)³
- This simple exception means that mothers can kill their own children with impunity.
- All 14 state laws contain similar exceptions.⁴

Pro-life Objections

Women are also victims of abortion and should not face any chance of prosecution related to killing their children in the womb.

- Many pro-life organizations do not support anything that could result in the prosecution of women.
 - After all, women are just victims of abortion too, right?
- Equal Protection laws do not target women.
 - They simply do not carve out exceptions based solely on gender.
 - The principal actor effecting the murder carries the greatest responsibility.
 - Arguments supporting exceptions inevitably borrow dangerous pro-abortion talking-points.
 - Arguing that women are incapable of understanding what abortion is insulting.
 - Is it somehow justifiable for mothers to kill their children because they are in terrible situations?
 - Why should a mother be considered guilty for murdering her child 5 seconds after birth but not 5 seconds before birth?
 - Saying we should only go after the providers of the abortion pill, not the people who use it is like saying we should go after gun manufacturers instead of people who use guns to commit murder.
- We are not denying that some women find themselves in terrible situations. The justice system exists to consider these facts and nuances for individual cases.
 - Homicide laws and court precedent already take into account mental state, coercion, self-defense, and ignorance.
 - Equal protection for children would not prevent showing compassion and care for women in difficult situations.
 - John 8: 1-11 (the woman caught in adultery):

1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been

³ Kentucky KRS 311.772 (5) - <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=49228>

⁴ See the interactive map at <https://abolitionistsrising.com/> for detailed information on each State.

caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

- The law educates about God's moral standards.
 - Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (we are to teach God's law to our families and communities)

⁶ "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."
 - The State's job is not to create laws from nothing. Their responsibility is to move God's pre-existing law into civil society.⁵
 - Carving out exceptions teaches that abortion is ok in certain circumstances or for certain people.
- Not all women are victims.

There are several movements boldly declaring that they know exactly what abortion is and that they don't care.

- #shoutyourabortion - "We will aid and abet abortion".
 - **"Courts cannot stop safe abortions from happening** - especially now that we have abortion pills." (emphasis added)⁶
 - This is one example of an organization actively promoting self-administered abortions.
 - The reason courts cannot stop abortions from happening is because of the exceptions included in every "pro-life" law.
- The Colorado Criminal Code defines first-degree murder as anyone causing the death of a child under 12 years, who is in a position of trust and ought to know better.⁷
 - This certainly applies to men who pressure their wives/girlfriends to take an abortion pill.
 - But it equally applies to women who knowingly and unashamedly take abortion pills themselves to kill their child.

⁵ Building the Framework - Brian & Maria Taylor

⁶ <https://shoutyourabortion.com/abortion-pills/>

⁷

<https://advance.lexis.com/api/document/collection/statutes-legislation/id/62NH-CKB3-CH1B-T34W-00008-00?cite=C.R.S.%2018-3-102&context=1000516>

But Colorado is one of the most pro-abortion states in the country. Is abolition politically feasible right now?

- Compromising the truth for strategic reasons undermines the integrity of God's word. We are called to hold fast to what is true.
 - Joshua 1:8-9 (God's message to Joshua and the Israelites prior to entering the promised land):

⁸ *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9:

⁸ *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, **firm in your faith**, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."*
 - 2 Timothy 1:7:

⁷ *"for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*
 - Compromising when you know the truth is fundamentally dishonest. We must clearly communicate the truth or lose all credibility.
 - Zechariah 8:16 (truthfulness is associated with justice):

¹⁶ *"These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace;"*
- It is true that Initiative 81 has an uphill battle ahead considering the politics of Colorado.
 - This may be the first Equal Protection measure in Colorado but it won't be the last.
 - We must clearly engage the culture from the Word of God.
 - William Wilberforce introduced bill after bill to end slavery. None of them were politically feasible for over 40 years. Slavery was finally abolished in 1833, 3 days before his death.

Incrementalism

- I was previously sympathetic to the incrementalist approach.
- However, I always assumed that the end goal was complete abolition.
- The lie is exposed when "pro-life" organizations continue to oppose abolition even when it becomes politically possible.
 - For example, HB 813 Abolition of Abortion in Louisiana Act of 2022, had a high likelihood of being passed until it was effectively killed by supposedly "pro-life" lobbyists.⁸

⁸ Louisiana Right to Life - <https://prolifelouisiana.org/forward-for-life-hb-813-explained/>

- Planned Parenthood and other pro-death organizations didn't even have to lift a finger to fight it.⁹
- The Bible has a lot to say about compromising truth for expedience.
 - Proverbs 23:23:
²³*"Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding."*
 - Proverbs 11:3:
³*"The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them."*
 - Ephesians 4:25:
²⁵*"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."*
 - Psalm 15:
¹*"O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent?
 Who shall dwell on your holy hill?
²He who walks blamelessly and does what is right
 and speaks truth in his heart;
³who does not slander with his tongue
 and does no evil to his neighbor,
 nor takes up a reproach against his friend;
⁴in whose eyes a vile person is despised,
 but who honors those who fear the Lord;
 who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
⁵who does not put out his money at interest
 and does not take a bribe against the innocent.
 He who does these things shall never be moved."*

Health objections (misdirections really)

- Miscarriages:
 - Homicide laws apply to **living** human beings.
 - Initiative 81 18-6-903 (1):
*"Lawful Protection. **A living human child** must not be intentionally dismembered, mutilated, poisoned, scalded, starved, stabbed, given toxic injections known to cause death, left to die of the elements for lack of warmth or nutrition, used for experimentation, or treated in any way inhumanely to cause intentional physical harm leading to intended death or intended to cause disability to otherwise healthy and functioning parts of the body of a child."* (emphasis added)
 - Abortion supporters have tried to link miscarriages and abortions even though they are very different.
 - No Equal Protection measure would apply to children who die naturally either inside or outside the womb.

⁹ The Fatal Flaw: Lies, Laws, & Pro-life Deception - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k33epqzJIIM>

- This is one reason most Equal Protection measures do not usually mention abortion specifically and instead focus on protecting living children from conception to natural death.
- Ectopic pregnancies and other health issues for the mother.
 - In most ectopic pregnancies the child has already died by the time it is discovered.¹⁰
 - There are times when a pregnancy must be ended by delivering a child early. In these cases, the chance of survival for the child may be limited. But there is no circumstance where the child must be intentionally killed.
 - This topic is personal due to our experience with Robert's birth:
 - Robert was delivered by emergency c-section 5 weeks early due to Becky developing severe life-threatening HELLP syndrome.
 - The only option available to save Becky's life was to end the pregnancy as quickly as possible.
 - "Ending the pregnancy" meant delivering Robert, not intentionally killing him.
 - I'm grateful that God provided doctors who worked diligently to save the lives of both Becky and Robert
 - Doctors may do what is necessary to treat the mother while simultaneously making every attempt to save the child also.
- In vitro fertilization (IVF):
 - Standard IVF procedures result in many fertilized embryos which are genetically complete human beings.
 - Unused embryos are unceremoniously killed ("discarded").
 - A consistent understanding that life begins at conception requires us to recognize these embryos as complete humans made in the image of God.
 - While traditional IVF procedures are clearly wrong, there is disagreement among abolitionists regarding so-called "Ethical IVF" where the number of embryos created is limited and all embryos are eventually implanted.

What can be done?

- Speak to people who claim to be pro-life and help them understand the Biblical foundations of Equal Protection.
- Consider using terms such as Abolitionist instead of Pro-life.
- Ask "pro-life" leaders to be consistent and be prepared to address objections.
- Support organizations committed to abolition instead of the pro-life establishment.

¹⁰ <https://abolitionistsrising.com/examining-ectopic-pregnancy-treatments-from-an-abolitionist-perspective/>

Additional Resources

- End Abortion Now - <https://endabortionnow.com/>
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