

Abortion is...? What three adjectives come to mind when you hear the word “abortion”? While you’re thinking, allow me to offer some suggestions. We could use a broad brush and say Racist. Sexist. Genocidal. We could go the alliterative route and say Heinous. Hopeless. Heartbreaking. Either way, here’s a fourth one for free: Abusive.

Vice-Presidential hopeful Tim Walz recently told those who want to deny women the right to abortion that the Golden Rule for them should be, “Mind your own damn business.” Oh really. I would think that advocating for children (including unborn children) who are victims of abuse is everybody’s business. (After all, it takes a village, you know, and we wouldn’t want all those mandated reporters to be silenced.) And what is the pinnacle of child abuse if not death by another’s hand?

During the Netflix documentary *The Program*, which exposes “schools” across the world that use abusive tactics to “rehabilitate” troubled teens, one interviewee commented that it is everyone’s responsibility to intervene when they witness a child being abused. Dietrich Bonhoeffer famously said, “Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act” and “Silence in the face of evil is evil itself.” If anyone did to a born child what abortion does to the unborn, it would be considered barbaric at best, and we would expect drastic and immediate intervention. If we stood by and did nothing in the presence of abuse, especially inflicted upon children, we would be monsters by association.

Abortion is also abusive to women. The procedure itself, at any stage, violently attacks what a woman’s body is naturally and uniquely designed to do. The increasingly accessible abortion pill opens women up to potentially life-threatening side-effects. Although the use of RU 485 (mifepristone) needs strict medical supervision and follow-up, more and more women are going through this ordeal at home. Alone.

Abortion empowers men. It allows men to shirk responsibility for a child they helped create and gives them a weapon to intimidate and coerce women. Secretary of Transportation (clearly an authority) said this at a “White Dudes for Harris” campaign, “But, of course, men are also more free in a country where we have a president who stands up for things like access to abortion care” (LifeNews, 8/1/2024). Freedom that comes at a cost to women, and...wait a minute, what about “no uterus, no opinion”? Legalizing atrocities such as abortion for rape and abortion without parental consent flings open the door for predators to flourish.

Abortion is schizophrenic. I would probably go to jail if I abused my dog (I would never!) in public, and the outcry would be deafening. Yet once I got out of jail, I could have an abortion, no problem. If I chose not to abort and the father decided to kill me, *he* could go to jail for *two* murders. This schizophrenic thinking is evident abroad, as well, when we consider countries, such as Great Britain, that allow abortion up to 24 weeks while celebrating the medical advancements that are keep preemies alive *prior* to 24 weeks. One headline in *The Daily Mail* reads, “Now hospitals are saving babies born at just 22 weeks: Medical advances raise new doubts on abortion limit.” *The Sunday Times* obtained figures from 25 hospitals which “showed 120 babies born at 23 weeks over the past five years survived,” yet “about 560 babies are aborted at 23 weeks’ gestation every year” (NRL News, 8/24). Unfortunately, this timeframe is moot for babies with an anomaly such as Down syndrome, who can be aborted up to birth in several European Countries.

If you can think of a positive adjective to describe abortion, let me know. I won’t hold my breath.

Partnering with You for Life,

Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR

