

life matters

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Help Wanted: Humble People

Every once in a while, a letter or email arrives at Baptists for Life from someone who has “the answer” to ending abortion for all time. The senders typically reveal, however, that they haven’t taken the time to research their ideas or have been unwilling to work within existing pro-life organizations. What’s lacking? Humility that recognizes the blood, toil, tears, and sweat of others and comprehends the immensity of the problem.

Why is humility such a necessary pro-life virtue? Because the problem of abortion is so firmly embedded in our culture. It’s been here a long time. And good people have been fighting it in as many ways as they can think of. It’s not that a new idea couldn’t come along, but it would be more readily adopted coming from a long-time ally.

The apostle Paul described humility this way: “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”¹

Paul’s prescription was for believers to forego personal rights and serve the needs of others, and he had several good examples at hand: himself, Timothy, and Epaphroditus. Paul and Timothy adopted selfless attitudes for the sake of the Philippians.² Epaphroditus served to the point of death.³ All took as their model the servanthood of Christ. Paul’s powerful reminder of how Jesus laid aside his glory, took on human flesh, and paid for our sin compels us all to acts of service and sacrifice for others.⁴

What does this have to do with pro-life ministry? First, pro-life ministers humbly serve their Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Second, we serve the unborn.

Think about the unborn for a minute. They are helpless and can’t speak for themselves. They have no gifts and abilities to offer society. They can’t vote for candidates who will fight on their behalf. They can’t fund pro-life initiatives or contribute to a local church. Without modern imaging devices, we can’t even see them!

There are none lower on the world’s value-scale. Society concludes they can be killed precisely because they lack power and rights, but this is our call to action.⁵

SERVICE IS COSTLY. Consider an Old Testament example. King David was a powerful man. As he settled into his throne, he looked around for someone to serve. “Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him?”⁶ David was open to serving any offspring of his enemy, but a search found the son of his dear friend Jonathan, Mephibosheth.

The most notable fact about Mephibosheth was his disability. Lame in both feet, he could not work to support himself nor render any service to his king. Reflecting what was probably society’s view of the disabled, he called himself “a dead dog,” essentially less than human.⁷

None of that mattered to David. He provided a living for Mephibosheth and invited him to dine at his table alongside Amnon, Absalom, Solomon, and his other children. He treated him as a son.⁸ His consideration for Mephibosheth was borne out of a profound respect for life.⁹

We’ve all been welcomed to God’s banquet – poor, crippled, blind, and lame though we are.¹⁰ We enjoy the freedom of His table, but this blessing shouldn’t end with ourselves.

What can people of pro-life virtue do?

- Volunteer at a pregnancy care center
- Befriend, mentor, and/or disciple a young mother
- Offer abstinence education to young people
- Hunt for baby furnishings at garage sales
- Campaign for pro-life candidates
- Provide free child care for PCC volunteers
- Sidewalk counsel at an abortion clinic
- Serve as a childbirth coach
- Write pro-life letters to the editor
- Provide shelter for a pregnant woman

FALSE HUMILITY says, “I am nothing. I can do nothing.” That’s not the kind of humility the pro-life movement needs and it’s not the kind of humility that Jesus displayed. He knew Who He was – equal with God – and yet humbled Himself to serve.

No matter who you are, you have gifts and abilities that are useful to the cause of the unborn. For help getting started, please feel welcome to contact Baptists for Life.

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Endnotes: 1] *Philippians* 2:3-5. **2]** *Phil.* 1:23-24, 2:19-22. **3]** *Phil.* 2:25-30. **4]** *Phil.* 2:5-8, *Mark* 10:45, *John* 13:1-17. **5]** *Proverbs* 24:11-12. **6]** *2 Samuel* 9:3. **7]** *2 Sam.* 9:8. **8]** *2 Sam.* 9:11. **9]** *Aside from his murder of Uriah, David held strongly to the sanctity of human life ethic, as evidenced in Psalm* 139:13-16, *1 Sam.* 24:6, 25:33, 26:9, *2 Sam.* 3:28, 4:10-11, and 23:16-17. **10]** *Luke* 14:12-14.