

Letter-to-the-Editor

“A Real Switch-a-roo!”

Early in March, a group of Iowa clergy and religious leaders signed a letter to the *Des Moines Register* in support of abortion. Signers included Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Episcopal, and Lutheran (ELCA).

The letter spoke against the Fetal Body Parts bill (Iowa Senate File 359) which includes language prohibiting abortion once a baby’s heartbeat is detectable. (An exception is medical emergency.) Although a preborn baby’s heart begins beating around 21 days, it isn’t picked up on a monitor until about six weeks.

The clergy claim that the bill prohibiting abortions is based on religion, not science. Now there’s a real switch-a-roo. Government leaders are speaking up in defense of unborn babies because their hearts are beating, but church leaders are blaming them for being religious.

The letter states, “We do not wish to debate [the abortion] issue because ... our personal religious beliefs are not relevant to the legal debate [and] should not be the driver of public policy.” But, isn’t signing a letter in support of abortion driving “public policy”? Why be a Christian if faith isn’t relevant to life?

The pro-abortion religious leaders maintain that women deserve to make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies. Haven’t we heard this before? Slave owners used to say, “I have the right to do as I please with my property.” Which one of us dare look at another human person created in the image of God—of any color, age, stage of development, or place of residence—and declare them “property?” How does a female pregnant with a male child get away with claiming he is her “body?” What reasonable feminist would agree that an unborn baby girl with her own unique DNA is the “property” of the older woman who carries her?

In their letter, these pastors and religious leaders called pro-life legislation “immoral.” The Lord God, through Isaiah, said, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20).

But there is hope! There is always hope! As a Lutheran who believes God is faithful and just, I confess with all repentant sinners:

Most merciful God, we have sinned against You. We have not loved You, nor have we loved our [littlest] neighbor as ourselves. We deserve Your punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us.

Looking to the Cross of Christ, we hear the One who began His earthly life as an unborn Child say to His Father, “Forgive them.”

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