

THE BATTLE CREEK BULLETIN

Inside this issue:

*And Now... Abortion After Birth* 1

*A Church Satisfied with Being a Church* 2

*Neither Catholic, Protestant, or Evangelical* 4

*God's Rehabilitation Center* 5

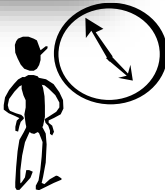
*A.M. Sermon Outline: The Bride of Christ* 6

Duty Rosters 7

Announcements & For the Record 8



Time of Assembly



**Sunday:**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

(Or every other week)

Bible Study 4:00 p.m.

Worship 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:**

Bible Study 7:00 p. m.

And Now... Abortion After Birth

By Dave Pratte

Virtually every Democrat in Congress is on record voting in favor of abortion up to the moment of birth. But the following quotation documents that some now want to justify killing babies after they are born. Two observations:

1) This documents that "abortion" is just a term for killing human beings. For years pro-abortionists have argued that the life in the womb is not a human being. But now they use the term to justify the killing of people that everyone would recognize as human beings. The claim that life in the womb is not human is a subterfuge and always has been.

2) So now what comes next? We have abortion that kills humans up to the moment of birth. Now some justify abortion after birth. What about abortion after infancy if a child is sick or otherwise inconvenient? Or abortion after adolescence if teenagers get sick or inconvenient? Or abortion after adulthood or abortion after retirement? Where does it stop? The logic that justifies any of it would justify all of it. The truth is, it is all murder.

Below is the quote. You can see my source at <https://apologeticspress.org/making-sense-of-life-and-death/>:

"...the Journal of Medical Ethics published an article by secular bioethicists Dr. Alberto Giubilini and Dr. Francesca Minerva in which they argued "that what we call 'after-birth abortion' (killing a newborn) should be permissible in all the cases where abortion is, including cases where the newborn is not disabled.

"The alleged right of individuals (such as fetuses and newborns) to develop their potentiality, which someone defends, is over-ridden by the interests of actual people (parents, family, society) to pursue their own well-being.... Actual people's well-being could be threatened by the new (even if healthy) child requiring energy, money and care which the

family might happen to be in short supply of...

“If criteria such as the costs (social, psychological, economic) for the potential parents are good enough reasons for having an abortion even when the fetus is healthy... then the same reasons which justify abortion should also justify the killing of the potential person when it is at the stage of a newborn...”

“[W]e do not put forward any claim about the moment at which after-birth abortion would no longer be permissible, and we do not think that in fact more than a few days would be necessary for doctors to detect any abnormality in the child. In cases where the after-birth abortion were requested for non-medical reasons, we do not suggest any threshold, as it depends on the neurological development of newborns, which is something neurologists and psychologists would be able to assess.

“[W]e do not claim that after-birth abortions are good alternatives to abortion... However, if a disease has not been detected during the pregnancy, if something went wrong during the delivery, or if economical, social or psychological circumstances change such that taking care of the offspring becomes an unbearable burden on someone, then people should be given the chance of not being forced to do something they cannot afford.”

---

## A Church Satisfied with Being a Church

By Jerry Blount

Is “your” church satisfied? Have you noticed that nowadays churches seem to be about everything but being churches? Let’s see ...

We have so called churches with gymnasiums, swimming pools, restaurants, bowling alleys, day care, schools, gift shops, etc. in them.

We have churches preoccupied with teaching everything from yoga to belly dancing. Here in Wichita, we had a fellow trying to start a church inside of a strip club... with other local preachers trying to justify said behavior.

I was recently discussing said church with another local preacher, while making the observation that, “This entire approach to things is absurd!” He responded by saying, “Well, I couldn’t do it. You see I have made a covenant with my eyes. But if he can handle it... then God bless him!”

I must confess that I was stunned. This entire mindset is not some rogue mentality but more and more it is becoming the mainstream. When I noted this approach to things to be a work of the devil a deacon’s wife in a neighboring congregation took issue with me... Noting that she was a tender person and to call something the work of the devil was just plain mean!

Many have tried to undermine Jesus’ leadership over the years calling it “just plain mean.” The leadership of Jesus demands that preachers identify the leavening influence in the churches for what it is. However, there is a problem, more and more preach-

ers in the pulpit are very like the unbelievers on the street. Preaching, and/or leading but not truly believing. They tend to go whichever way the wind blows today.

Christianity looks to many like a bunch of aimless bodies wandering around bumping into each other. Isn't it a shame that no one seems to know what they ought to be doing as a church, so they just seem to make it up as they go along?

Some folks seem bound and determine to lift the head (Jesus' head) right off the body. There is a problem with approaching things in this manner... Jesus is either the head, or it's not His church. The church either focuses on its relationship to Jesus or Jesus isn't first place in everything. My dad used to say, "if you try to stand for everything, you'll end up standing for nothing." There are quite a few people that have forgotten this basic truth... and then those same folks wonder why things go haywire in their lives.

When Paul was explaining the eternal purpose of the church (Ephesians 3:11) to the church at Ephesus he said, "*As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all {aspects} into Him who is the head, {even} Christ,*" (Ephesians 4:14-15).

So, one of the reasons for the church is so that you won't be subject to all the whims of this world tossed to and fro. Many churches themselves are willingly tossed to and fro with the winds of time chasing the latest illusions of wisdom. The Bible provides a "new and living way." Today it seems old (2000 years) but it remains "new" to the folks who discover it. These other ways are more new-fangled or tangled than they are living. New without Jesus... is dead. In this context... a dead end.

Your faith just doesn't have to be so aimless; you can have direction... Clear direction! Most folks sense that something just must be wrong with a church being more about entertainment (or raising money) than about going to heaven. They are just not sure where to turn in their Bible to articulate what their common sense tells them.

Kids raised in such an environment do in fact enjoy being entertained, but then they grow up without knowledge and sense what they see is empty. Godly parents are shocked when their kids come of age and fall away from the church. In your Bible you will find none of that foolishness! "The church" was founded by Jesus Christ. It is based on the fact that He is the son of God.

*"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:16-18).

It is easy to read Jesus' words too quickly here and believe that Peter was the rock rather than the fact that Jesus is the son of God. However, this is not the only passage making this point.

## Neither Catholic, Protestant, or Evangelical

By Al Diestelkamp

Back during the days when churches had tract racks filled with short articles bound in little booklets, one that was popular among brethren was titled *Neither Catholic, Protestant Nor Jew*. It was in a time when people in our nation categorized all religious people into one of three ways. The tract was an effort to distinguish true Christians from those simply professing to be God's people and to issue an appeal to be simply Christians.

The religious makeup of our nation has changed greatly over the decades, creating even more categories. With the addition of the many eastern religions, to publish a tract denying affiliation with all the available houses of worship would require a ridiculously long title. Today, among those claiming to be followers of Jesus the prevailing thought is that they must be either "Catholic Christians," "Protestant Christians," or "Evangelical Christians."

Just where do you and I fit in this denominational mindset? Though we claim not to fit into any one of these categories, the world doesn't seem to "buy" our protests and view us as just one denomination among many. Even *The Babylon Bee*, a satire website, when featuring "A Guide to All the Christian Denominations," included: "Churches of Christ — Another non-denominational denomination." Ouch!

It's one thing for the general public to fail to recognize the undenominational aspect of the church that Jesus built (Matt. 16:18) and lump us in under the evangelical label, but it's another thing altogether when brethren endorse or identify with evangelicalism. Part of this may be that brethren mistake the word *evangelical* with *evangelism*; and since we preach and teach the importance of evangelism, we must be evangelicals.

I grant that a dictionary definition of the word *evangelical* may be vague enough to seem to include the Lord's people, but we know dictionaries are not always a reliable source for biblical terminology (i.e., "baptism"). Consider the definition from the viewpoint of popular culture:

*Evangelicalism*, also called evangelical Christianity, or evangelical Protestantism, is a worldwide trans-denominational movement within Protestant Christianity that maintains the belief that the essence of the Gospel consists of the doctrine of salvation by grace alone, solely through faith in Jesus' atonement. [Wikipedia]

Besides the doctrinal errors that are espoused within the movement, present-day evangelicalism is perceived as an arm of one political party. While that party's platform might conform more closely to my personal views, and its success might prove more accommodating to righteous living and the spread of the gospel, the Lord's kingdom is not "of this world" (Jn. 18:36).

Many years ago I worked with a church that met in rented facilities. The property was owned by a sitting U.S. senator. One year, as election day drew near, we found the church's sign surrounded by campaign signs. Though the senator was one whom I personally appreciated, I objected to the signs, noting that we didn't want to leave the impression that the church endorsed political candidates. Besides that, we didn't want to discourage people from the opposing party from hearing the gospel.

Even though the Lord's church is "catholic" (universal), we don't call ourselves "Catholic"; and even though we "protest" the errors of Catholicism, we don't call ourselves "Protestant." Likewise, although we have more in common with evangelicals, I believe it is a mistake to identify with a "trans-denominational movement." We are simply Christians!

---

## God's Rehabilitation Center

By Steve Fontenot

We all have sin (Rom 3:23). We all have weaknesses (Heb. 4:15). In fact, it is so bad, we all have *died!* (Eph. 2:1).

Christ takes away our sins (Rev. 1:5). Christ helps us with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:16). Christ makes us alive again (Eph. 2:5).

But sin is ever present and seeks the opportunity to invade our lives. Weaknesses persist and can cause us to get discouraged and distracted and to give up. We can die again!

God established a rehabilitation center—the local church. It's not for people who have never been sick and have no threat of sickness, weakness, or death. It is for those who overcame through Jesus Christ and wish to continue to overcome; it is for those who wish to be healthy, develop strength, and continue to live! It is in the local church we can be reminded—through prayers, songs, a memorial meal, and Bible study—to focus on the victory we found in Christ Jesus. There we can be encouraged by others who have the same background of weakness, sin, and death but have overcome. There we can be of service to those who desire to overcome, be strong, and live. It's God's plan—not man's plan. It reflects His love, His care, and His wisdom.

Some do not realize the danger they are in; they do not realize their weakness and ignore their sin. They may well die. They do not check in and continue with regular visits and activities at God's rehabilitation center.

Go to church. Go to church regularly. Make it a priority. You need it. God, in His wonderful love and infinite wisdom, provided for it. If you are not going regularly and are not involved with its people and activities, it can be a sure sign you definitely need rehabilitation! Here is God's warning as to where it can end...Hebrews 10:23-31!  
*Read it!*