

The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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Does the End Justify the Means?

I recently saw some graffiti on a bridge which said, "Trust in Jesus." The message was good. The problem is the last time I checked graffiti was against the law. Someone thought that the message was so good that a little thing like the law shouldn't stand in the way of getting it out. My guess is that the person who wrote that message on the bridge knew he was breaking the law but probably figured that the end justified the means. A lot of folks think like that. Let me give you a few examples.

Telling small lies

What is a small lie anyway? To God a lie is a lie and all lies are sinful (Revelation 21:8). But we hear people conclude all the time that there are certain situations that call for a lie. If we can spare the feelings of a friend by lying to him, we ought to do it. It seems that a little white lie won't hurt anybody if it can spare a friend some pain. For example, what about when the boss asks you to lie for him? It sure is important to please the boss. It can be the difference between getting fired and getting a promotion. Lying for someone else isn't as bad as lying for yourself, is it? "I have a family to support and I don't want to risk making my boss mad." So, the end justifies the means. We can justify a lot of things with that philosophy, can't we? Even lying!

Using musical instruments in worship

Most people do not think of musical instruments in connection with Bible authority because they have never been taught how to establish Bible authority. But I have been in situations where I have taught people the basics of Bible authority; they have grasped the concept, but still think that instruments of music are okay in worship. They say, "There may not be any Bible authority for musical instruments; but after all, the music sounds so much better with them. So, God is glorified even more and people are edified to a greater extent. The end justifies the means."

Well first, God is never glorified by a violation of His Word, and while music with the instrument might sound better to some men, it doesn't sound better to God and He is the One with Whom we should be concerned. Second, the end never justifies the means if the means are sinful.

Killing doctors who perform abortion

Is abortion an abomination to God? Of course it is! It's murder. But you don't fix murder with murder. Murder is an abomination before God no matter who commits it; even if the person sincerely thinks, in a deranged kind of way, that he is doing God a favor. I suppose that if enough doctors who perform abortions were murdered, it would have an impact on how many doctors would be willing to perform them. But the end doesn't justify the means. The only way to stop an abortionist is by teaching him the gospel. If that doesn't work, perhaps prayer will make a difference. If

nothing else works, then we just leave it in the hands of God and allow Him to sort it out on the Day of Judgment. It's sad that so many unborn babies are being put to death, but to murder the doctors performing the abortions is to sin against God and to become worse than the doctor.

Misusing the Lord's money

Some brethren do things with the Lord's money that are unscriptural, unauthorized, and therefore sinful. Building basketball courts, day care centers, kitchens, etc., all seem good on the surface, but where is the Bible authority? In a conversation I once had with a preacher who condoned the church building gymnasiums in which young folks could play, I challenged him for Bible authority for such a thing. His answer was simple. "The neighborhood is dangerous (the church building was located in a rough neighborhood in Memphis), and the kids have to have somewhere to play." In other words, there is no Bible authority really, but the end, that is, the young kids having a safe place to play, justified the means of using the Lord's money in a way He has not authorized.

The end never justifies the means if it violates the law of God. If the means is wrong, it is wrong no matter what. Paul recognized that when he condemned the concept of doing evil that good may come (Romans 3:8). We should recognize and condemn the same thing.

Don

How Did You Celebrate the 36th Anniversary?

Aaron Erhardt

January 22 marked the 36th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, a Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in America. Since that decision, more than 50 million unborn children have been killed.

It is disheartening to me that Christians are not more outspoken about the barbaric and sinful practice of abortion. It is a plague on our society to the highest degree. What is worse than a nation that kills its most helpless citizens—unborn children?

Unfortunately, it does not appear that abortion will be outlawed any time soon. President Barack Obama is a staunch supporter of abortion and has promised to do all he can to ensure that abortion continues to be practiced in America. Obama was a co-sponsor of the 2007 Senate version of the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which would repeal the ban on partial-birth abortion and do away with nearly every restriction on abortion. The freedom of Choice Act would allow pregnant teens to have abortions without parental notification and eliminate mandatory waiting periods. It would also put pressure on medical staffs to perform abortions, even if they are pro-life. While speaking to the Planned Parenthood Action Fund on July 17, 2007, Obama said, "The first thing I'd do as President is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That's the first thing I'd do."

Most people ignore the issue of abortion in favor of more self-serving issues. They are more interested in saving the economy than in saving the unborn. This is even true of some Christians. God hears the cries of the unborn, do we? How did you celebrate the 36th anniversary?

(Editor's Note: Aaron wrote this article six years ago so the 22nd marked the 42nd anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Still the battle continues to be fought).