

# STIVERS HOME INSTITUTE

P. O. Box 47444, Wichita, KS 67201

April 24, 1989

Dear Friends:

"For them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." - 1 Samuel 2:30

On April 1, I was arrested for blocking entrance to an abortion clinic here in the City of Wichita. Today, along with other participants, I was fined by the Court. You are correct: I participated in a national movement that has come to be known as "Operation Rescue". The idea behind "OR" is to raise the decibel of protest by a notch or two with acts of civil disobedience. Eight years ago, after picketing an abortion clinic in Duluth, Minnesota, I decided that such action was an insufficient response to murder. I didn't do much with the Pro-Life movement after that, not until the Body of Christ was ready for civil disobedience - until April 1.

I have read the arguments from Christian leaders who oppose OR. If I did not regard ALL their objections invalid, I would not have participated. Frankly, to read their sloppy scholarship, tautologies, and thinly veiled cowardice tests my patience. As one well-versed in the literature from the American Revolution, many of these leaders sound like Tories (Americans who were British sympathizers during the War - about a third of the population). If we followed their reasoning, we would still be Colonies. And we would never stop abortion either.

These Christian leaders want a law to be passed prohibiting abortion, not this "anarchy" the OR people are advocating. I want a law too. But these leaders fail to realize that a majority vote does not make what is morally wrong, suddenly morally right. If it is morally wrong for me to stop a murder, it is morally wrong for the police. If I am breaking God's law by blocking access to an abortion clinic, so is a civil magistrate. In fact, it is because of the magistrate's dereliction of duty that I have to do his job for him by stopping a murder. A "state" is only the collective action of people to protect the right and punish the wrong. A majority vote does not validate or invalidate anything in terms of moral law. If it is wrong for me to steal, it is wrong for the government to steal, or permit me to steal. If it is wrong to murder babies, no government can make it right - no constitutional amendment, no decision by nine old men, nobody. There is no separate ethical system for the state.

Legal scholars generally concede that the U.S. Supreme Court decision - Roe v. Wade - is a dubious decision. Reversing a thousand years of Western tradition and based upon non-existent, Constitutional language, we have a right to ask "who are the real revolutionaries here?" I say the specious reasoning of nine old men does not nullify the laws of virtually all 50 states, which prohibited abortion, let alone the Law of God. I say OR is a counter-revolution.

**AN ADVOCATE FOR THE HOME RENAISSANCE MOVEMENT**

Other Christian leaders are telling us that Civil Disobedience is not effective. I did not do it because it was effective. I did it because it was morally right and proper. It may not seem that way to most people, but Operation Rescue is really a liturgy before the Throne of God. By laying our bodies in front of abortion clinics, we are speaking as witnesses in God's courtroom against the rulers of our society. We are speaking on behalf of the little martyrs who cannot speak or pray.

Operation Rescue will not end abortion. It will end our nation. It will guarantee God's wrath upon our people. Unwittingly perhaps, the civil disobedience of Operation Rescue is acting out the Prophet's role. In the Bible, the Prophet was always God's spokesman to the civil authorities. By preventing entry, we were doing what the rulers of our people should have been doing - preventing murder. By arresting us instead of the murderers, the civil authorities have despised the Lord's command and have called "good evil and evil good". They have heaped upon themselves the wrath of God. They have committed mortal sin.

Legalized abortion is the conclusion of a generation of apostasy which began in 1930, when the major Protestant denominations began to accept the legitimacy of artificial contraception. Christians cannot stop abortion, for they commit the same sin - the same in kind, although not in degree. It is a short path of incremental steps, logically, from the destruction of life before it is conceived and after it is conceived. The cancer of humanism is not excised until human autonomy is surrendered to God in the area of marital sex and family planning. A marriage certificate does not validate sexual license between spouses. It is a compromise with hell to say that "Life begins at conception". Biblically, life begins in the seed of a man's loins. And the wanton destruction of a man's seed, which deviant sex requires, is a sin of uncleanness in the eyes of God.

How can God possibly bless hypocrisy? How can we hope to stop abortion, when we have not dealt with the problems which lead to abortion? What is the Church going to do for unwed mothers? What are we going to do for the fatherless and the financially strained household? The only answers American Protestantism has offered are welfare, soup kitchens, public schools (or expensive parochial schools), the new nunneries, and asceticism. If abortion were to stop tomorrow, it would create a social crisis of unimagined proportions. Abortion is the pagan answer to a problem the Church has been unable or unwilling to solve. Think about it.

I discuss these subjects at length in my forthcoming book, Eros Made Sacred.

My plans are to renew "The Family Spokesman" next month. I have sent you this letter to give you an idea how things are coming along. Our first ad for SHI has appeared in NAPSAC's home birthing directory, which goes to thousands of people all over the country. Next, we plan to advertize in "The Teaching Home" magazine, sometime this summer.

I have decided to terminate "The Separatist Papers" and incorporate the last two issues into my book Eros Made Sacred and a book I am outlining for 1991 - Dominion By Family Covenant. But, to satisfy your curiosity, I will outline their contents in my next "Family Spokesman", which will also be the last one using the old format.

God bless you all.

In Christian love,

James Stivers

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P. O. Box 47444, Wichita, KS 67201

February 26, 1991

Dear Christian Friend:

Almost a year ago, I wrote a very roughly written essay presenting the case for polygamy as a Biblical custom. I submitted it to my closest colleagues, friends, and people I felt trustworthy.

Although I forcefully argued the case in favor of polygamy, in the Preface I made it clear that the essay was merely "propositional" and its thesis remained to be tested. I am grateful for those who studied it carefully and provided me with judicious comments.

As a consequence, I have decided to drop the position stated therein. That essay does not represent my views. For that reason, I request you destroy your copy of it and inform anyone whom you may have discussed it with, that it no longer is supported by its author. Since you are not one given to gossip, I am sure this request should not inconvenience you.

The essay grew out of my sense of compassion for the many Christian women who despair of ever marrying and having children. Polygamy seemed a sensible solution for that and other social ills.

There are still unanswered questions. However, I choose to leave their answers to better minds than mine.

Respectfully yours,

*James Stivers*  
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