

Address given at the 40 Days for Life rally  
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By Pastor John Tate

No one believes that a little baby should be killed.

So, why are millions of babies being killed? Sophistry, selfishness, and Satanism.

A sophist is a philosophical soldier of fortune - someone who uses his studied powers of language and rhetoric to fight the intellectual battles of his clients. He crafts his arguments and attacks - not from a place of conviction - but, instead, for cold hard cash. A sophist doesn't care about right and wrong; about honor, morality, and justice. A sophist simply wants to win.

An army of black-robed and blue-blazered university elites have, for decades now, been using euphemisms, logical fallacies, and honey-tongued seductions to anaesthetize the American public to the horrors of abortion. They depersonalized and dehumanized the matter by coaching abortion advocates to talk about "unwanted pregnancies" and to speak of the act as the "termination of a pregnancy". Of course, none of us standing here today were ever "pregnancies". We were and are human beings. But, of course, who would support terminating "unwanted human beings"? There were other euphemisms as well - framing the debate as a matter of "choice" for instance, speaking of precious life as "fetal tissue", and making infanticide "family planning".

And then there's that awful weapon of mass distraction - the logical fallacy. Logical fallacies are fog machines, designed to disorient voters and to obscure from view, the ghastly violence and terror going on behind the closed doors of abortion clinics. There are too many of these fog machines to discuss here today, but let us examine just one. When a pro-abortion politician or legislator attempts to moderate his support for killing babies and to appeal to a pro-life constituency; he will often say that he wants abortion in America to be "safe and rare". This, of course, is begging the question. What is "rare"? One or two a year? A dozen? A hundred, a thousand, a hundred-thousand, or a million? Who knows?

These politicians could never be held to account in regard to their efforts to fulfill this pledge or honestly assessed - they've been sufficiently vague. A number that begs no question, however, would be the number zero. And what exactly is a "safe" abortion? Aside from the fact that every abortion aims to destroy life, how can shaming, scaring, and guilt-ing a woman to forsake all her maternal instincts and end her child's life - how can that ever be done "safely"? Is there a way to cauterize a woman's conscience, black out her memory, and bubble-wrap her soul? No - to say that the legalization of abortion makes it "safe" is to say that a mother is merely a blob of tissue herself; an unfeeling animal with no soul or spirit to consider or care for. This, as we all know, is not the case.

But for all the sugar that sophists have given to help the medicine go down, there's a still greater contributing factor to America's abandonment of life. The maxim of the enlightenment - that man is the measure of all things - has become the predominant worldview in our age. This belief cheers the death of Socrates and tells Plato to go pound sand. Modern man no longer believes there are any universal truths above us that inform the morality and ethics here below. The vast majority of our countrymen believe that right and wrong is a matter of personal discovery and something for each of us to determine for himself. This warped worldview has made it possible for many to acknowledge that abortion is an awful evil but that loss of personal freedom and sexual liberty is a still greater evil. What is unconscionable for the Christian and his community may be perfectly acceptable for someone of another belief system and community - because, after all, man is the measure of all things.

The Golden Rule, given to us by Jesus, that encourages us to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"; has worked well for thousands of years and served as the basis for many great societies. But in our day, this great adage is being replaced by something called the Platinum Rule. The Platinum Rule, instead, encourages us to "Do unto others as they would want you to do unto them." Do you see the subtle but profound difference between these two rules? In the original rule, we treat others as we would want to be treated but in the new, we treat others as they want to be treated. This shift rejects the universal brotherhood of man and creates a world with a truly chaotic ethic. The way Jesus would have it, a pregnant mother would treat the unwanted child

in her womb the way that she would want to be treated herself. This, of course, would lead to the baby being cared for, considered first in all things, blessed, and carried to full term. But by modern man's rule, the pregnant mother asks her unwanted child to do unto his mother as she would want - and to simply die. Of course, this is a ghastly philosophy and could become the predicate for any number of unspeakable horrors and indeed already has. With abortion, no one bothers to try and find out how the unborn baby would like to be treated by her mother, but who cares? With the Platinum Rule, we all understand that the strong get what they want and the weak suffer what they must. We must fight for the Golden Rule in our day - it was given to us by a loving Creator who understood that, without it, our world would become so violent, scary, and chaotic that only a flood could fix it.

Being a shepherd, I pay close attention to the yellow-eyed wolves that stalk the woods beyond the paddock. Caring for sheep doesn't just involve leading them to feed in green pastures and drink beside quiet waters, but to also be ever on the alert for those predators that look to pick off the lambs. Perhaps that is why when I hear all the wicked howling and see the baring of sharp fangs in vicious snarling, I look for the wolves. I don't find these wolves in Washington, Hollywood, or the University. No - I know this enemy well. The single greatest reason for the insane slaughter of innocents in this country is that author of lies and champion of death himself - Satan. Our country, by forsaking the Lord, has unwittingly put ourselves under the rule and authority of the prince of darkness. I imagine many of you might hear this and think that I'm overstating the matter. But what is Satanism if it isn't the odd embrace of death? The earnest plea of the Lord's prayer used to be often on our lips: "Lord, deliver us from evil." But now, in a blind and pitiful state, we grope in an impoverished darkness and say: "Evil, deliver us." We look to lies to deliver us from our baying consciences. We look to rationalizations to deliver us from suffocating facts. We look to vice to deliver us from our many regrets. We look to the law to deliver us from responsibility. We look to the promise of Babylon to deliver us from the threat of Hades. But for all this appealing to evil - the only delivering being done is us - unto death.

As the Apostle Paul told the believers in Ephesus, our battle is not against flesh and blood; but against the rulers, the authorities, against

the cosmic powers over this present darkness, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Jesus has left His church to serve as the designated driver for a drunk world. It is up to us to seek to take the keys and get behind the wheel for the sake of the weakest and most vulnerable among us. And we should not be content for small victories when there is still so much death and destruction of precious life. As Stanislaw Lec has said: "Is it progress if the cannibal puts his napkin in his lap?" No - it is not progress if we overturn Roe and have not overturned the callous indifference of our nation toward the unborn.

King Solomon in Proverbs 26:13 says, "The sluggard says, 'There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!'" The unborn don't need another voice crying out about the lions running wild through the town square, the halls of government, our schools, and even the church. It is a sluggard who can only point out the threat, but who can do anything about it. May the Lord rouse His Church from its sluggishness and enjoin her to get up and dispatch the lion by engaging in the spiritual warfare that has been so long necessary. May the Lord stir His people to prayer, holiness, and loving action.

No one wants to see a little baby killed.

If, in God's strength, we are able to undo the knots the sophists have tied, restore the sanity of the Golden Rule, and unmask Satan for the grave enemy he is - perhaps we will see the day when abortion will not only be illegal but also unthinkable.

Thank you.