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**GOING BEYOND THE LAVER**  
Abortion.

**Abortion is not a women's issue, it's a human issue and it's effects are devastating to women and men alike. But it's high time for men to take personal responsibility, stand up for women and children, and exercise the kind of leadership God expects of us.**  
R. Alcorn.

**Oh no, she's not going to write about abortion is she? Yep.**

The abortion clinic most local to us was in the local newspapers a year or two ago when it opposed the opening of a child care centre in the same street (next door I think). It was felt the clientele of the child care centre might be upsetting to their own. In the end, the child care centre had permission to go ahead and the abortion clinic was instructed to build a fence.

The clinic sits on a side street of our most local shopping district. I only realised exactly where it was when I had to visit an admin building situated directly opposite. The clinic signage didn't give much away, but the woman's name that it was named after tweaked my memory so I went home and looked it up on the net. In the years since, while that admin block was still housed opposite that clinic, you would sometimes see small groups of faithful and brave women sitting on the street verge in prayer.

Some may scorn that idea but I applaud it. They were DOING something. These were people whose convictions enabled them to be both physically and emotionally out of their comfort zones. And, when you think about abortion - the issues, factors, legal processes, views on morality etc etc etc - are all so huge, we are reminded that prayer is the most effective tool in reach.

Abortion fills me with despair at every level – apart from the place where as a child of God I sit on His knee in my prayers... I imagine with His tears mingling with mine... and those of countless others across Time.

HEB 4:14-16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. **Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

DT 33:12b "Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in him, for he shields him all day long, and the one the LORD loves rests between his shoulders."

- I think of my friend who 30 years on from a parentally forced abortion in her teens -who can still barely speak of it. She knows she's received forgiveness, but she still grieves.
- I think of my teenage friend whose life led her to see her 3 abortions as nothing more than a contraceptive option. I've not seen her in over 20 years to know how she's faring today.
- I think of my friends with disabled children. I watch the acceptance of their friends, the love of their families and the joy of the children's achievements.
- I think of my friend who was told "Downs Syndrome" in early pregnancy with the 'options' being made clear to her. I think of this dear little girl now one year old – and who doesn't have Downs.
- I think of our oldest son whose plumbing workmate was called to clear a blockage in a waste machine of a Perth hospital. This boy's revulsion of this particular task and our sons' outrage at such a thing.
- I think of those who may undergo Breast cancer and never know the link...
- I think of our baby... currently 33 weeks in-utero. Just 5 weeks beyond the 28 week allowable usage period for the RU486 abortion pill. I think it's interesting that there seems to be no more discussion

regarding blobs of tissue. The community doesn't feel the need to protest on that front anymore. I've been watching the progress of my 'blob of tissue' every week on the internet: [www.baby2see.com](http://www.baby2see.com)

- I think of our oldest daughter who mentioned recently that she'd heard of her first peer who'd possibly had an abortion just recently. She wasn't sure of the rumour/fact status of this, yet I watched her heart, mind and expression struggle in preference of the rumour option - no matter how terrible that kind of rumour would be, as rumour would be less terrible than the fact. Her hearts protective mechanism doesn't want to face the sadness and helplessness for both her friend and a lost little one.
- I think of my own preference to avoid knowledge and information on this subject. This avoidance being due to three main areas I see in me... sadness, outrage and helplessness. It's too big. Too hard. Too ingrained. Having said that, there is much we can do, yet that sense of helplessness at the monstrosity (double meaning intended) of it all prevails. We can write letters, be involved in groups and protests, support the support agencies that offer choices for life, sign the petitions and be in touch with politicians etc. I agree and encourage all of that yet here I write what matters most to me (I think) which is an effort to make this personal rather than a news topic only affecting other people.

We all interact with other people every day. As God's people we are meant to have the ability to be lighthouses of hope.

We all know people affected by abortion... we might just not know that fact *about* them. Some perhaps are not ready to be that hope to someone else that is post abortion – we're too busy looking down our nose in horror without stopping to see that the possible only difference between 'them' and 'us' is a conception. How many married Christians today - without the sins of past impurity – can 'afford' to walk in judgement?

2CO 5:16-21 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting men's sins against them**. And he has **committed to us the message of reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

COL 1: 20 and through him [Jesus] to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Within the fullness of God's character we are to first be reconciled to Him through His blood and forgiveness, and then to bring His love to others – the lost, the grieving, the difficult, the fallen and the forgiven.

Even forgiven, we need His nature and outworking in different measures in different places of our being...

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Meekness
- Self control

Did you really read that list of words or did you skim over them because of their familiarity? Have a think what areas you need differing measures of the Holy Spirit within your being!

The main characters in the Adrian Plass books "Stress Family Robinson" are the Robinson family members and their older single female friend whom they affectionately refer to a 'Dip'.

One small mystery of this book is why Dip keeps a bottle of bubble mix on her bed-side table.

Dip comes and goes from the Robinson house, being a friend to each. She watches their struggles, participates in their love and hears their troubles. By the end of the second book, where Dip has been watching and listening to her friend Kathy Robinson rail about the frustrations of husband and children, Dip reveals to her friend that she had an abortion many years before, and the grief, shame and loss still haunt her every day. Kathy, in Dip's opinion, is to be grateful for even the struggles and difficulties of family life – because she has one. A family that is.

The Robinsons - for all their ordinary faults - are Dip's safe place. They are the place where she reaches for the help and experience of forgiveness that till then she had not known. Their home Bible-study group gathers and holds a candlelight Communion service, and she is washed in their love and acceptance.

**The Phone call – Kathie to Dip:**

“Dip, what did you want tot talk to me about this morning?...”

“I was so very young, you know – silly and young I was.”

Pause

*Lord Jesus, please sit beside on this bed and put your arms around my shoulders and whisper in my ear the words I should say to my friend...*

“Every time I see her Kathy – just about every time I see that lovely, lovely girl of yours – it crashes against my chest. Boom! It crashes against my chest every single time I see your Fli – Fli – Filicity. It hurts so much, Kathy, and it won't go away.”

“What is it that's hurting you Dip?”

“It's this heavy weight, the one that got hung around my neck – so heavy – it hurts so much. I can't get rid of it Kathy.”

*She was pregnant. She had an abortion.*

“Did you have to have it terminated Dip?”

“No, not terminated – wrong word altogether... Killed is the word... Killed... Had to have it done. My dad said it was the only way. Mum cried and flibbered about a bit, but she always did what he said. Our house wouldn't stop being shivery and dark because of his... shame that went roaming and roaring around outside like a monster, blocking out the light. It was huge Kathy, so much bigger than what they killed. The thing they killed wasn't much bigger than a grain of rice... Little tiny...”

*She gave it a name.*

“Dip, darling did you give the baby a name?”...

...“I've never said it out loud before. I've never dared”

As I waited Jack and Felicity came back into view up the road. Jack, Mark and Felicity. Three names and three whole people to go with them. Riches. Treasure.

“He's called David. I mean I don't know whether he would have been a boy or a girl but I've always called him David... The guilt's been terrible, Kathy – terrible, like a great lump of concrete or something, always there, always reminding me that he could have grown up, he could have learned to walk, and he could have run and jumped and fallen over and grazed his knee and cried and I could have kissed it and put something on it to make it better. But I didn't make it better – all I did was kill him, Kathy. I killed my little David.”

When I told Mike about it later I said that the sound of that weeping seemed to me like a lake of sea of grief that at last found a way to escape and flow evenly out of the place where it had been trapped for all those hard years.

*We could have a communion service.*

...For the second time in a short while things were done to the young girls' body without the consent of her inner will, this time in the name of discretion and good sense... In her mind the hypothetical David, unborn but always sadly and accusingly present, had been waiting 40 years to hear her explain why his life had needed to end before it ever had a chance to begin

#### **At the Communion Service:**

Mike dropped his eyes so he didn't seem to be addressing anybody in particular, and his voice became, if anything, even quieter, but the words remained crystal clear.

"All of us have to face up to and say sorry for the sins we commit in thought and words and deeds, things we should have done, and things we shouldn't have done... "As far as you are able" continued Mike "when the bread and the Wine comes to you, by an effort of the will, put those things down for just a moment, open up your hearts and your hands and receive the comfort and love of God in the body and blood of His Son. It has always been kept safely for you anyway, earning interest and whatever has happened in the past, whatever happens now, and regardless of what happens in the future, nothing in heaven or on earth can take it away from you. Do it in remembrance of Him. Amen"

"Jesus is here now Dip" I said, my voice barely rising above a whisper, "and David is with Him holding His hand. In some way that we don't understand - he's done all his growing up and falling over and having his knees kissed better. He's what he would have been and you can say whatever you need to say to him."

Huge single tears reflected in the candlelight as they rolled slowly down Dip's cheeks...

"David, Darling, I have always loved you, you know – always. I have always. I've thought about you every single day. I so wish we could have been together. I'm so very sorry that – that it wasn't possible. Thankyou Jesus for loving him and looking after him for me, Please help me to let this wound heal. I never want to scar to go, but I – I honestly don't think I can stand the pain any more." She let her head drop on my shoulder like an exhausted child. "Cant say any more..." STRESS FAMILY ROBINSON 2 – Adrian Plass

And the bubbles?

They were to help her regulate her breathing on nights when the pain of grief brought waves of panic.

In relationship to others: Will we be their 'safe place'? A place of hope, healing, **and direction**?

This is not about double standards, it's about LOVE being bigger than it all - for **love is not truth alone, but truth with** ... rejoicing, ...patience, ...kindness, ...humility, ...hope, ...perseverance, ...gentleness, ...respect, and of ...response to being about the Master's business of reconciliation with those He loves to Himself.

#### **IS ABORTION RIGHT WHEN PREGNANCY IS DUE TO RAPE OR INCEST?**

By Randy Alcorn

Studies conducted by the pro-choice Guttmacher Institute indicate that two consenting and fertile adults have only a 3 percent chance of pregnancy from an act of intercourse. They also indicate there are factors involved in a rape that further reduce these chances for rape victims.\* The Institute says fourteen thousand\* abortions per year are due to rape or incest, which amounts to 1 percent of all abortions.\* Other studies show that pregnancies due to rape are much rarer, as few as one in a thousand cases.

What's the Real Issue?

Where does the misconception come from that many pregnancies are due to rape? Fearful young women sometimes attribute their pregnancies to rape, since doing so avoids

condemnation. Norma McCorvey, the young woman called "Roe" in the Roe v. Wade case—who elicited sympathy in the court and media because she claimed to be a rape victim—years later admitted she'd lied and hadn't been raped.\* (McCorvey has since become an outspoken pro-life advocate and has asked the Supreme Court to review and reverse Roe v. Wade.\*)

Pro-choice advocates divert attention from the vast majority of abortions by focusing on rape because of its well-deserved sympathy factor. Their frequent references to it leave the false impression that pregnancy due to rape is common, rather than rare.

We have a dear friend who was raped and became pregnant. Because of her circumstances it wasn't best for her to raise the child. She released the baby for adoption into a Christian family. Our friend periodically has contact with the family and her child. It hasn't been easy, and her pain has been great—yet her overwhelming comfort is in knowing her child lives and is loved.

On a television program about abortion, I heard a man say of a child conceived by rape, "Anything of this nature has no rights because it's the product of rape." But how is the nature of this child different from that of any other child? Are some children more worthy to live because their fathers were better people? And why is it that pro-choice advocates are always saying the unborn child is really the mother's, not the father's, until she is raped—then suddenly the child is viewed as the father's, not the mother's?

The point is not how a child was conceived but that he was conceived. He is not a despicable "product of rape." He is a unique and wonderful creation of God.

Having and holding an innocent child can do much more good for a victimized woman than the knowledge that an innocent child died in a fruitless attempt to reduce her trauma.

#### Conceived by Incest

Incest is a horrible crime. Offenders should be punished, and decisive intervention should be taken to remove a girl from the presence of a relative who has sexually abused her. The abuser—not the girl or her child—is the problem. Intervention, protection, and ongoing personal help for the girl—not killing an innocent child—is the solution. Despite popular beliefs, fetal deformity is rare in such cases. If the child has handicaps, however, he still deserves to live.

Why should Person A be killed because Person B raped or sexually abused Person A's mother? If your father committed a crime, should you go to jail for it? If you found out today that your biological father had raped your mother, would you feel you no longer had a right to live? A woman who heard me address this issue came up afterwards, sobbing. She said, "My mother was raped as a thirteen-year-old. She gave birth to me, then gave me up for adoption. Every time I've heard people say abortion is okay in cases of rape, I've thought, 'Then I guess I have no right to live.'"

Let's punish the rapist and the abuser, not their victims. The woman isn't spoiled goods—she's not "goods" at all but a precious human being with value and dignity that even the vilest act cannot take from her. Likewise, the child isn't a cancer to be removed but a living human being.

#### Abortion Compounds Rape Trauma

Feminists for Life says, "Some women have reported suffering from the trauma of abortion long after the rape trauma has faded."\* It's hard to imagine a worse therapy for a woman who's been raped than to add the guilt and turmoil of having her child killed. One day she'll understand—and those who advised abortion will not be there to help carry her pain and guilt.

In their book, *Victims and Victors*, David Reardon and associates draw on the testimonies of 192 women who experienced pregnancy as the result of rape or incest, and 55 children who were conceived through sexual assault. It turns out that when victims of violence speak for themselves, their opinion of abortion is nearly unanimous—and the exact opposite of what most would predict:

Nearly all the women interviewed in this anecdotal survey said they regretted aborting the babies conceived via rape or incest. Of those giving an opinion, more than 90 percent said they would discourage other victims of sexual violence from having an abortion. On the other hand, among the women profiled in the book who conceived due to rape or incest and carried to term, not one expressed regret about her choice.\*

There's a parallel between the violence of rape and abortion. Both are done by a more powerful person at the expense of the less powerful.

Abortion doesn't bring healing to a rape victim. Imposing capital punishment on the innocent child of a sex offender does nothing bad to the rapist and nothing good to the woman.

Creating a second victim never undoes the damage to the first.

## **ABORTION-RELEVANT REFERENCES FROM SCRIPTURE**

"Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?" (Proverbs 24:11-12)

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9)

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . . My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." (Psalm 139:13-16)

"Surely I was sinful at birth; sinful from the time my mother conceived me." (Psalm 51:5)

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5)

"Know that the Lord Himself is God: it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture." (Psalm 100:3, NASV)

"For every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son." (Ezekiel 18:4)

"Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"You shall not commit murder." (Exodus 20:13)

"And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man." (Genesis 9:5)

"If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise." (Exodus 21:22-25)





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