

His Workmanship: Westside

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

—Ephesians 2:10

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“As Long as It Doesn’t Harm Anyone,” by Doy Moyer

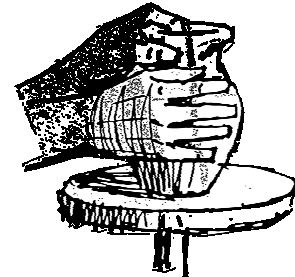
One of the most prominent moral justifications heard today is that as long as a practice doesn’t harm anyone, then it is right and should be allowed. The primary argument this is being used for today is same-sex marriage. *“The practice is not harming anyone, so you need to let them do what they want.”* Doesn’t that make sense? How can we not agree with that? However, it carries broader applications, and those applications aren’t just about politics.

First, the argument of “no harm” makes assumptions not only about what “harm” is or is not, but also about who should or should not perceive something as harmful. We might notice that when people talk about what doesn’t “harm” anyone, they don’t really define what they mean. They assume that everyone is on the same page and proceed to argue from those assumptions. Interestingly, some of the same people will argue against all religion on the basis that they believe religion “harms” people—thus the meaning of “harm” is often a matter of perspective.

What does it mean to “harm”? The English word “Harm” is from Old Slavic meaning “shame.” It means to injure or do mischief or damage physically or

mentally; to hurt; or to cause loss. Its opposite is to benefit (welfare; help), cf. Ps 103:2; 68:19; 106:5; 116:12; Is 30:5; Jer 18:10; 2 Cor 1:15. In Hebrew, the verb *ra’a* is translated *harm* or *hurt*; it means “to spoil (literally, by breaking to pieces); figuratively, to make (or be) good for nothing, i.e. bad (physically, socially or morally): -afflict, displease; (be, bring, do) evil or ill; do mischief, wicked(ly); vex; make worse.” See [Josh 24:20](#); 1 Chr 16:22; Ps 37:8 (105:15); [Jer 25:6](#). *Ra’a* and the noun *ra* are used 623 times (translated *harm* 33 times); *ra* means “adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, + displease(-ure), distress, evil; harm, heavy, grief(-vous), hurt(-ful), ill; noisome, trouble, mischief(-vous), misery, naught(-ty), + not please, sad(-ly), sore, sorrow, vex, wretchedness, wicked(-ly, -ness, one), worse(-st), wrong.” See [Ex 32:12, 14](#); Pr 3:30; [Jer 24:8-9](#); 38:4; [Joel 2:13](#); [Jon 4:2](#); Mic 3:11. The Hebrew *acown*, meaning *mischief, harm*, is used 4 times in Ex 21:22-23 and Gen 42:4, 38; 44:29. The Hebrew word *chata* —“to miss, to sin, to forfeit, lack, trespass, lead astray,” is used 220 times, but only a few meaning *harm*, see Lev 5:16; 1 Sam 26:21.

In the New Testament, *harm* appears 13 times: Greek noun *kakos*, or verb *kakoo*, is used 7 times, meaning “intrinsically worthless, i.e. (subjectively) depraved,



Isaiah 64:8

or (objectively) injurious:—bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked.” See Ax 9:13; 16:28; 28:5-6; Rm 13:10; 2 Tim 4:14; 1 Pet 3:13. The other 6 uses of *harm* are *adikeo*, meaning “to be unjust, i.e. (actively) do wrong (morally, socially or physically):—hurt, injure, be an offender, be unjust, (do, suffer, take) wrong,” all in Revelation: 6:6; 7:2-3; 9:4, 19; and 11:5.

What is harmed? Something good can harm something bad, and something bad can harm something good. Truth will injure falsehood, and what is false can damage the cause of truth. The question shouldn’t be “does it cause harm?” but rather “is it right or wrong?” What we should always be concerned about is doing what is right, and “no harm” should not be equated with “right.” “Harm” is too fluid a concept to be anchored to “right” or “good.” If the good harms the evil, that’s as it should be.

Is there such a thing as universal harmlessness? Is there really a practice that is totally and completely harmless to everyone and everything in all circumstances? When people say that a practice “doesn’t harm anyone,” are they making some universal statement of truth? Or are they focusing on a particular circumstance? Are there bigger issues that we ought to think about? What

continued on p. 2

“[The LORD said,] ‘...I will set My eyes on them for harm and not for good,’ ” Amos 9:4, from p. 1

about something considered harmful to one group or person, but not to another? Do we ignore part of the equation in order to push an agenda? Who gets to decide that? Who exactly is the authority on what harms people? Or do we just get to make pronouncements about that and expect that others will accept our judgments? Imagine making this argument about other issues:

“As long as it doesn’t harm anyone, I can steal a little from the rich. They won’t miss it, and no one is hurt.” Thus we can justify stealing. *“I’ll can tell a little white lie because it’s harmless. In fact, it can be helpful to lie under these circumstances.”* *“Cheating on this exam doesn’t matter—it doesn’t hurt anyone.”* Thus we justify lying, dishonesty, and a lack of integrity. *“Drunkenness, drugging, prostitution don’t harm anyone—they are victimless crimes.”* Tell that to the victims of drunk driving. *“Gambling only hurts the person who gambles.”* Tell that to families bankrupted by games of chance.

If it works for one, it works for the others. Are we prepared to say, really, that stealing, lying, and fornication are all justified when they don’t “harm” anyone, based on a subjective perspective of what it means to “harm”?

There are different kinds of harm, including physical, emotional, and moral harm. [Next week we’ll take a look at physical harm.] These seem obvious, but let’s also consider the idea that something can be subtly harmful overall because it chips away at and destroys the structural foundation of a society. When it comes to matters like living together apart from marriage, easy divorce, or same-sex marriage, we are looking at practices that challenge the infrastructure of the family, which in turn harms the structural foundation of society. *“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the*

righteous do?” Ps 11:3.

Marriage between male and female protects and perpetuates society, especially the vulnerable. It creates a stable family situation for women, men, and children. By redefining marriage or family, against both God’s revealed will and all conventional wisdom that spans time and culture, we are naive to think that there is no harm done to societal structural foundations.

The worst of all harms is spiritual harm. Sin is always harmful to those who engage in it, so if something is sinful, as defined by God, then it is harmful to the ones who practice and promote the sin. We all ought to desire avoiding that. *“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people,”* Pr 14:34.

If we take something that is sinful, then argue

that it is acceptable because it doesn’t cause anyone “harm,” then we have misunderstood the true nature both of what is harmful and the consequences of sin. We are no different from those who called good evil or evil good, Isa 5:20. When we promote, perpetuate, and protect what is unnatural and sinful, we are harming ourselves, our neighbors, and the society in which we live. We may not see this immediately, but eventually the piper will be paid. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life,”* Gal 6:7-8.

Rather than asking whether something is harmful, let’s ask whether something is right. “Right” isn’t defined by our own selfish perspectives, but by a Creator Who ultimately knows what is



most beneficial to all of us.

Finally, the gospel calls on us to repent of sin while offering forgiveness and reversing the eternal effects of what sin does to us, Ax 3:19. When we deny the harm that sin causes, then we deny the power of the gospel to save us from our sinful condition. This will result in irrevocable and permanent harm to us. That is why we need to diligently teach the truth that will set us free from sin, Jn 8:31-32. This isn’t about taking a political position; it’s about reaching a lost world that needs to come home to God.

Planned P’hood, from p. 3

is astounding. The irony was not lost on Erick Erickson, who wrote satirically about the companies that subsidize PP in its unethical, inhumane treatment of mothers and babies. www.redstate.com/2015/07/23/coca-cola-and-verizon-have-subsidized-the-brutal-killing-of-animals/ Four of the companies, Coke, Xerox, American Cancer Society, and Ford, have stated they were erroneously listed. The March of Dimes had so much outrage on its Facebook page that they issued a response which claimed they had no relation to PP, but then admitted that five local chapters had indeed given money to PP.

Investigations are beginning at both the state and federal levels. America is sickened by the revelations about PP, while bracing for more exposé videos. It’s time for Congress to act by passing Rep. Black’s and Senator Lankford’s bills to withhold our money from subsidizing Planned Parenthood. What can you do to help? Keep the pressure on. Reach out on social media to companies and organizations that subsidize PP and urge them to remove themselves from any affiliation with PP. Ask Congress to put the emergency brakes on all PP funding until we know the full extent of its involvement in the dark world of organ trafficking.



Psalm 133:1

God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Planned P'hood Scandal, from p. 4 bartering over baby organ prices like trinkets at a local bazaar. (Gatter was Medical Director at PP Los Angeles until 2014, and she now oversees PP's Pasadena affiliate in addition to her leadership and advisory positions at the national level of PP.)

Of course, the negotiations wouldn't be necessary if PP truly didn't profit from the sales. Instead, the rates were fluid—so much so that Gatter said, "If it's low, then we can bump it up. But it has to be big enough that it's worthwhile to me." After some back-and-forth—in which the PP director admitted she wants to do more than "break even"—the executive settled on \$100 per "specimen."

But the price wasn't the only thing that was negotiable. So was the abortion technique. Like the doctor in the first video, Gatter was very open to changing abortion protocol to protect the babies' most valuable parts. "I wouldn't object to asking Ian, who's our surgeon who does the cases, to use an IPAS [manual vacuum aspirator] at that gestational age in order to increase the odds that he's going to get an intact specimen." That means, she explains, "using a less crunchy technique to get more whole specimens." When the undercover "buyers" asked about the legality of it, the doctor seemed unconcerned. "To me, that's kind of a specious little argument." After all, she explained, other companies come in during the procedure to scavenge what they need—keeping PP's hands clean in the process. That will be more difficult now, especially as Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX), Mike Lee (R-UT), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), and Joni

Discipleship Here At Home

Ernst (R-IA) are digging deeper into the grisly side business. Letters have landed at NIH, PP, local medical buyers, Attorney General Loretta Lynch's office, and HHS headquarters—all demanding answers on possible criminal activity. Like a wounded animal, PP lashed out at the Center for Medical Progress, arguing to the House Energy and Commerce Committee that CMP is the one that broke the law by exposing this. But Congress isn't fooled. And neither is the American public. According to Rasmussen's latest poll, only 25% can rationalize PP's ghoulish practice. Over 40 organizations have called on Congress to put a moratorium on funds to PP. And Congress is listening!

Rep. Diane Black (R-TN) and Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) have introduced legislation (H.R. 3134, S. 1836) that would prevent federal funds from going to PPFA for one year from the date of enactment, giving Congress time to do in-depth investigations into PPFA's alleged violations of the law. As Rep. Black said, "The one-sided relationship between Planned Parenthood's ever-growing bank account and American taxpayers must be severed." Our tax dollars would be much better spent going to reputable health care centers rather than funding this scandalized billion dollar abortion business that not only ends human life but sells/donates them for parts. Senator Lankford agrees: "This is a sensitive topic for many, and I am aware our nation is divided on the issue of abortion, but it is common sense that we shouldn't force taxpayers to assist the harvesting of human organs."

Indeed, common sense and common decency seem to be missing at PP, as well as at the corporations that willingly give their dollars to PPFA. PP insists, "We're not in it for the money." If that were true, then it doesn't need our taxpayer dollars. The dramatic disconnect between US laws protecting from cruelty to animals and the silence on cruelty to unborn children *continued on p. 2*

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer post-surgery recovery at home, low calcium; awaiting biopsy results
- **Frankie Sangellino**—cyst on left kidney, awaiting biopsy results
- **Patricia Ward**—infection
- **Danny Dodd**, formerly of Westside—full brain radiation at St. Anthony's Hospital as outpatient
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving,
- **Bill Dennis**—home recovery following rehab
- **Aubrie and Aaron Andrews**, friends of **Boyd**—**Aaron** lost leg in motorcycle accident; pray they will be receptive to the gospel
- * **Sandra Perry**—diabetes complications; back on oxygen
- * **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams's** daughter—needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**
- * **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Bonnie Doss**—cancer returned
- * **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer, improving; grandmother—on dialysis
- * **Gregg Geis's** friend **Taylor Olson**—overdosed recently; pray for his family
- * **Sheryle McNeill's** daughter **Tiffany** and **Ed's** son

Rodney Schulz—pray they receive gospel

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

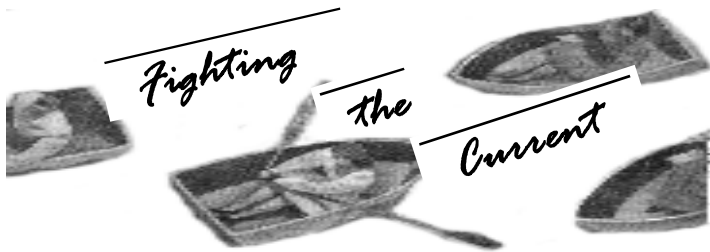
- Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes**—asthma
- Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease
- Jonathan Hadders**—RA
- Kirk Johnson**—MS
- Menards**—**Lloyd** diabetes, Alzheimers; **Virginia**, blindness from macular degeneration; high bp
- Cheryl Reames**—fibromyalgia; shingles
- Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis;
- Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness

Passing Ed Fink passed from this life recently; he used his gifts to serve, living "by the Book." Cards to Letha and family: 606 Colorado Blvd, P.O. Box 841, Idaho Springs 80452

Johnny Horton, former Westside evangelist, recently passed away. Cards to Sandy Horton, 6089 W. Chestnut Ave, Littleton 80128.

Travel **Smiths** and **Kaysha Howell** in TN for **Tianna's** wedding today, back Tues. **Gintchins** in Bulgaria until Aug. **Szymanskis** in Ohio. **Payton Miller** leaves Mon. Several at camp all week 'til Sat: **Kim Howell**; the **Boyd**s; **Nellie** and **Levi Cox**; **Heather Mailloux**; **Owen** and **Addie Tope**; **Logan Corray**.

God loves new life, Ps 139:13-16; Jer 1:5. Every human is made in God's image, Gen 1:26-27; 9:6. God hates murder and shedding innocent blood, Ex 21:22-25; Deut 21:8-9; 2 Kg 24:4; Ps 94:20-21; 106:38; Pr 6:16-19; Is 59:7; Jer 7:5-7; 22:3, 17; Joel 3:19; Jonah 1:14.



Exposing current thoughts & trends abortion

More Planned Parenthood Ghouls Caught

While Planned Parenthood is being investigated, President Obama is tightening federal funding rules—for pro-lifers! After three congressional committees and seven states have launched probes into a possible organ harvesting ring, the White House is not only ignoring the scandal, but focusing its fire on organizations providing real care to women. The President is finalizing rules to stop faith-based groups from getting a dime of federal funding. Their crime? Believing that all life has value and refusing to refer women to groups who disagree.

HHS quietly disqualified pro-life groups from sex trafficking victim grants unless they offer "the full range of legally permissible gynecological and obstetric care" (read: abortion referrals). On the other hand, if you aid and abet sex traffickers, the government will happily write your organization a check for a half-billion taxpayer dollars a year!



Of course, the timing of the rules couldn't be worse from a PR standpoint—when the rest of the country's attention is on the organization that may be peddling infant body parts for profit. Decades of lies and corruption came to a head last week after Planned Parenthood was accused of running a black market of baby parts. More than two million Americans have watched the President's closest ally—out of the mouth of the organization's own senior medical director—talk about changing its abortion procedures (often at risk to the mother) to protect—not the woman's or baby's interests, but—PP's. And more than a half-million dollars flowed directly to Democrat House and Senate candidates in 2014 from PP's PAC.

Last Monday, White House Spokesman Josh Earnest shrugged off the undercover video so revolting that Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) had said he'd "vomit" just talking about it. Asked if the President would reconsider federal funding to a group that may be endangering women to farm out their babies' organs, Earnest said, "No. Next question." Two seconds. That's all the time this administration could spare for the profound inhumanity on display at the clinics of his close ally.

But this issue isn't going away any time soon—not with a second video (see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjCs_gvlmyw) making headlines Tuesday. The footage opens with PP CEO Cecile Richards's insistence that PP doesn't profit from the sale of human remains, but then casts serious doubts on her claim in a lengthy lunch with another of Richards's top executives. Filmed earlier this year, the President of PP's Medical Directors' Council, Dr. Mary Gatter, spent most of the meeting casually continued on p. 3



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Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, "*A Life-Changing Encounter with God's Word from the Gospel According to John*," Jonathan Hadders

- **Sermon**, "Are You a FAN or a FOLLOWER of Jesus?" Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon, "Take Up Your Cross Daily," Payton Miller

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of 1 & 2 Thessalonians this evening, July 26, 4 pm, at the Reingrovers', light supper and send off for Payton after. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.