



“Pro” can be an abbreviation for “professional” (as opposed to an amateur), just as “fan” is a shortened form of “fanatic.” Or – “pro” can be a prefix, meaning support or favor. The opposite prefix to “pro” is “anti.” We are looking at the prefix, not the abbreviation.

We are “pro-life!” We understand the Bible to be pro-life. God created human life on Day 6. This special word for “create” is used in Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:21, and Genesis 1:27. It is different from “made” or “formed.” This special word means to “create out of nothing,” instead of made or formed out of pre-existing material. When we are saved, a new life is “created” – II Corinthians 5:17. Both words “create” and “made” are used in Genesis 2:3.

The “creation” of human life by Jehovah God gives value – eternal value – to the human soul. This Crown of Creation was created in the image of God. This is not a tangible image (John 4:24), for God is Spirit. God is a Trinity, and we are a trinity. We believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. God is one being manifested in three persons – 3 in 1.

As His image, we are 3 in 1. We have a Spirit, we have a mind (more than a brain), we have a body, but we “are” a SOUL – a Human Soul. He saved my soul. Human life has an eternal dimension. This is why we always value human life over animal life of any kind.

Human life was the finishing work of the 6 days. God saved the best for last (Eve is last). All of creation was “good,” (God does not create a mess – Isaiah 45:18), but Day 6 and the creation of human life was “very good” – Genesis 1:31. We are pro-life – human life – because Jehovah God is pro-life.

“Pro” What?



PRO-LIFE — Christian Action Commission executive director-treasurer Kenny Digby (left) tours the Center for Pregnancy Choices (CPC) in Jackson with clinic director Jay-Tea Leggett (center) and CPC executive director Erin Kate Goode (right). The state-of-the-art sonogram machine at the facility was funded by Mississippi Baptists through the Memorial to the Missing. (Photo courtesy of Becky Digby)

Even those who support abortion (the murder of an unborn child), do not like the word “pro-abortion” – for the murder of a helpless baby is awful to any rational person. They want to be called “pro-choice,” not “pro-abortion.” But a skunk by any other name is still a skunk. A murderer and any accomplices to the murder of unborn babies will give account to the Creator.

You can call gambling – gaming. You can call pro-abortion – pro-choice. We

are anti-gambling and anti-abortion. But we are pro-life, all human life.

Here is my question. Are you PROACTIVE as a pro-life believer? Words are cheap, though necessary. What about your actions? Do you put your money where your mouth is? Do you give your time and energy as a volunteer? Have you considered adoption or foster parenting?

In a recent 5-day period, I participated in a pro-life forum on a Sunday night at Meadowview Baptist Church, Starkville,

with pastor Jason Middleton; I participated in a noonday prayer vigil on Wednesday at the only abortion clinic in Mississippi. On Thursday night of that 5-day period, we (the CAC) sponsored a table at Bethany Christian Services’ banquet and participated in that event.

The key word is “participate.” I confess my lack of participation in this arena, and it is an arena and we need gladiators. Becky and I plan to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on January 19.

After the noonday prayer vigil at the Fondren area abortion clinic in north Jackson, we were invited to cross State Street to the Center for Pregnancy Choices (CPC). They showed us the state-of-the-art sonogram machine that you as Mississippi Baptists purchased with the money from the Memorial to the Missing. All those pennies will keep on working till Jesus comes. Many young women will become pro-life when they “see” their babies. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness. Recently, we helped financially with Oasis Medical Center in Corinth and My Choices Pregnancy Help Clinic in Ripley in their efforts to save lives.

Most of you are pro-life believers. Are you pro-active Christians? Would you commit today to be pro-life and pro-active? Cut a check, make a call, hold a sign, volunteer, pray, do something! The smallest good deed far exceeds the grandest intention. Do something to save an innocent life! Pro? Pro what?

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Physicians oppose state-approved assisted suicide

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — The American College of Physicians argues medicine’s goal is not to control the manner and timing of death. Amid increasing attempts to legalize euthanasia at the state level, the nation’s second-largest network of physicians officially spoke out against it last week.

The American College of Physicians (ACP) wrote in a position statement published Sept. 19 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* that the organization of 152,000 medical professionals stands against the legalization of physician-assisted suicide, “the practice of which raises ethical, clinical, and other concerns.”

“Control over the manner and timing of a person’s death has not been and should not be a goal of medicine,” the group concluded. “However, through high-quality care, effective communication, compassionate support, and the right resources, physicians can

help patients control many aspects of how they live out life’s last chapter.”

The position paper came in response to increasing public interest in legalizing euthanasia to promote patient autonomy at the end of life. The ACP said it remained “attentive to all voices” but decided to oppose legalization efforts.

John Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, said the decision is “wonderful news.”

The ACP statement is “giving voice to the real need of compassionate and supportive care for people who may be considering requests for assisted suicide and protecting the role of physicians as healers, not killers,” he said.

The much larger American Medical Association (AMA) has for years discouraged physicians from being “involved in interventions that have as their pri-

mary intention the ending of a person’s life.”

Alex Schadenberg, director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, said the ACP statement aligning with the AMA should help shatter the pro-euthanasia movement’s illusion of unstoppable momentum.

“The facts show otherwise, that there’s not really a massive turn toward assisted suicide going on,” he said. “Over and over again, almost every state is constantly defeating this. The doctors remain against it. The court decisions in the last couple of years have all gone against it, and yet there’s a perception that the opposite is true.”

Physician statements like the ACP’s carry a lot of weight with legislators “because when you legalize assisted suicide, you’re actually asking physicians to be directly and intentionally involved with giving lethal drugs to their patients,” Schadenberg said.

In Canada, where lawmakers legalized assisted suicide last year, advocates have pushed to expand the Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) law to include children and patients with dementia, Schadenberg noted. Some Canadian doctors have opted out of the law but last week, the *Montreal Gazette* cited a recent Quebec study showing 91% of caregivers support expanding MAID to patients with Alzheimer’s and dementia.

The pro-euthanasia camp has yet to make such headway in the United States. Since Oregon passed its Death with Dignity Act in 1994, lawmakers have filed 231 bills seeking to legalize euthanasia in state legislatures across the country, according to the Patients Rights Council.

One-fifth — 43 bills — appeared this year, and every one of them failed before becoming law.

Some states have defeated dozens of proposals. Hawaii faced 30 previous attempts to legalize euthanasia before this year’s onslaught of five bills, and New York had 12 before this year’s three bills.

Lawmakers in only five states — Oregon, Washington, Vermont, California, and Colorado — have legalized assisted suicide. The Council of the District of Columbia approved a law last year, but federal lawmakers could overturn that measure.

Meanwhile, Alabama adopted a ban on any form of aid in dying in June, and New York’s high court refused to legalize physician-assisted suicide earlier this month.

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