

Trends

Annual U.S. abortion statistics:

- ☛ ~879,000 abortions in 2017.
- ☛ ~19% of U.S. pregnancies end in abortion.
- ☛ Highest abortion rates: Washington D.C. (38%), NY (33%), NJ (30%); lowest: UT (5%), SD (4%), WY (<2%).
- ☛ Unmarried women account for 86% of all abortions (CDC).
- ☛ Black women are 35 times more likely to have an abortion than white women (CDC).
- ☛ <0.5% of abortions due to victim of rape.
- ☛ >92% of abortions are for convenience of the 'mother.'

- via ABORT73.COM

2 Kings 24:4: "and also because of the innocent blood that he [Manasseh] had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon."

Sentence Sermons

"Abortion and racism are both symptoms of a fundamental human error. The error is thinking that when someone stands in the way of our wants, we can justify getting that person out of our lives. Abortion and racism stem from the same poisonous root, selfishness."

—Alveda King

Romans 1:28-32: "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (KJV)

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Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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Murmurers, Complainers, and Whiners

R. J. Evans

Murmuring and complaining can be extremely destructive to a local church. These sins are much like a cancer in a church that spreads and can be more destructive than many other sins combined. It takes much love, faith, goodwill, and hard work to keep a congregation strong and growing. Thus, we can understand why the Apostle Paul warned the Corinthians not to be like the Israelites in the wilderness, when he told them not to "murmur, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed by the destroyer" (1 Cor. 10:10). He also told the Philippians to "Do all things without murmuring and complaining" (Phil. 2:14). Here is a list of things that can happen when we murmur and complain:

- ☛ Things look worse than they are.
- ☛ It becomes a habit that is contagious.
- ☛ It skews our focus.
- ☛ It discourages others.
- ☛ It kills enthusiasm.
- ☛ It promotes bad relationships.
- ☛ It creates companions and cliques.
- ☛ It leads to pessimism.

Another word that is closely associated with murmuring and complaining is whining. In fact, it is defined by both terms, as well as approaching life in a self-pitying manner. It reminds me of the famous poem - "Lord, forgive me when I whine!!!" (Author Unknown). Please consider it:

"Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,"

Philippians 2:14-15

*Today, upon a bus, I saw a lovely girl with golden hair, I envied her....she seemed so beautiful....and wished I were so fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave, I saw her hobble down the aisle.
She had one leg and wore a crutch; but as she passed....a smile!
Oh God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two legs. The world is mine!*

*I stopped to buy some candy. The lad who sold it had such charm.
I talked with him. He seemed so glad. If I were late, it'd do no harm.
And as I left, he said to me, "I thank you. You have been so kind. It's nice to talk with folks like you. You see," he said, "I'm blind."*

*Oh God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two eyes. The world is mine.*

Later while walking down the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue. He stood and watched the others play. I stopped a moment. When I said, "Why don't you join the others, Dear?"

He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.

*Oh God, forgive me when I whine.
I have two ears, the world is mine.*

*With feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset's glow,
with ears to hear what I would know....*

*Oh God forgive me when I whine.
I am blessed indeed. The world is mine!*

When we are tempted to start engaging in murmuring, complaining, and whining, we need to reverse course and begin counting our blessings, naming them one by one, as one of the hymns that we often sing teaches us. Also, it will do us good to turn to Psalm 103, and read and meditate upon it often.

We close with the encouraging words of the Psalmist: *"This is the day which the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it"* (Psa. 118:24).

"Kill Them Now or Kill Them Later"

David Dann

The inspired writer of Ecclesiastes observes the following: *"The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; the words of his mouth begin with foolishness, and the end of his talk is raving madness"* (Eccl. 10:12-13, NKJV). In recent days, these truths have been blatantly illustrated by the words of Alabama state representative, John Rogers.

A recent news article appearing on AL.com states:

"An Alabama lawmaker is defending comments that on Wednesday quickly shook the hornet's nest of the abortion ban debate. 'So you kill them now or you kill them later. You bring them in the world

unwanted, unloved, you send them to the electric chair. So, you kill them now or you kill them later,' State Rep. John Rogers, D-Birmingham, said in a video posted on Twitter. On Thursday, Rogers defended the statement, arguing Alabama does not value life despite the House having just passed what some say is one of the strictest abortion laws in America" (Abbey Crain and Mike Cason, AL.com).

While reflecting on Mr. Rogers' words, please consider the following:

1. The sanctity of life. Of the creation of man, the Bible says, *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them"* (Gen. 1:27). For this reason, human life is to be nurtured, protected, and respected, whether within the womb or without (cf. Lk. 1:39-44). Among those things the Lord hates are, *"Hands that shed innocent blood"* (Prov. 6:17). Human life has been set apart and above the rest of God's creation and must be treated accordingly.

"These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ...Hands that shed innocent blood..."

Proverbs 6:14-15

2. The culture of death. The apostle Paul speaks of those who are *"filled with all unrighteousness,"* including *"murder,"* and who are *"undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful"* (Rom. 1:29, 31). Certainly, it is wrong, selfish, and sinful to neglect one's children so that they are brought up in an unloving environment. Is it any less sinful to murder them while still in the womb (or shortly after birth, as some are now advocating)? The legal enshrinement of the murder of the unborn as a "woman's right to choose" has fostered within our society a culture of death. Murder is acceptable and may be mentioned in a flippant manner as long as one is referring to the murder of helpless, innocent, unborn children.

3. The judgment of God. Those who have casually encouraged the culture of death here in this world will face the wrath of God hereafter. John the apostle writes, *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"* (Rev. 21:8).

Conclusion

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7). In a society in which every man feels entitled to treat the world to his twisted opinions, we must continue to look to God's word for direction and understanding. Our society's ills will not be cured by the perverse utterances of its deranged lawmakers. The only solution is for each individual to obey the instruction of the true Lawgiver, Jesus Christ. *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets"* (Matt. 7:12).