

THE MIRACLE AND SANCTITY OF LIFE

2020

When my husband and I made a surprise visit at the hospital the day after the birth of our grandchild on February 12th, we found the new parents tired but relieved and ecstatic. They were both thrilled that everything went so well and that their baby was healthy and cute as a button. The mom, of course, felt the pain and discomfort following a C-section. The last nine months had not always been a walk in the park for her either. The hormonal changes, the aches and pains in her body during pregnancy were probably still fresh on her mind too. However, nothing else mattered at that very moment but the joy she felt holding her sweet baby boy in her arms.

As for our youngest son, the new dad, he was simply amazed at what he had just witnessed. *“I’ve heard people talk about their experience of having a baby, but now I know the feeling!”* These words were pretty much what he said to us after the birth of his first child. And to hold his baby boy in his arms after nine months of waiting had been the moment he was so looking forward to!

Their little one had just been fed and was sound asleep when we arrived. And as I was holding him in my arms for the first time, I couldn’t help but say an inward prayer of thanks and gratitude to God who made this birth possible. Baby Jack was now part of our ‘family quilt’!

My husband and I have now been blessed with six grandchildren. They are all part of our family, which I like to compare to a very special and unique quilt with each piece representing a member. So, for each grandchild born into our family, a new piece is sewn. And with the birth of this baby boy, I can say that our quilt is more beautiful than ever!.. I am so thankful and grateful to God for each and every one of these precious children. Obviously, the moms and dads had to do their part in bringing them into this world!... However, I’m sure they will agree with me that it was infinitesimal compared to the part God played as he formed them in their mothers’ wombs. It’s really mind-blowing!

However, it is sad to say that in our society today there are so many controversies about pro-life vs pro-choice, and I’m not here today to start another debate on the subject. However, I can speak from experience when I say that children, and grandchildren for that matter, are a gift... a gift from God. And no matter if a pregnancy was planned or not, wanted or not, an unborn baby is already a human being from conception. That’s a medical fact.

Dr. Jérôme Lejeune – now deceased - was a French pediatrician and geneticist, best known for discovering the link of diseases to chromosome abnormalities and for his subsequent opposition to prenatal diagnosis and abortion. Below are his comments:

“Life has a very long history, but each individual has a very neat beginning, the moment of its conception. The material link is the molecular thread of DNA. In each reproductive cell, this ribbon roughly one meter long is cut into 23 pieces, or chromosomes. As soon as the 23 paternally-derived chromosomes are united through fertilization to the 23 maternal ones, the full genetic meeting necessary to express all the inborn qualities of the new individual is gathered, i.e., personal constitution. At two months of age, the human being is less than one thumb-length from the head to the rump. He would fit at ease in a nutshell, but everything is there: Hands, feet, head, organs, brains. In the fourth week is consciousness. All are in place. His heart has been beating for a month already and fingerprints can be detected. His heart is beating at 2 months at 150 to

170 beats a minute. To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place, a new human being has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion.”

After reading these comments, I wonder how a woman can come to the extreme decision of ending the life of her innocent baby when she's faced with an unwanted pregnancy. I don't want to sound too harsh in speculating that the baby's best interest is probably not her first priority at such a time. I realize there's a lot more to it than meet the eyes. The emotional distress she finds herself in can make it difficult to make a rational, moral decision on the matter, and I would hope that she gets help and guidance before she does. Many organizations that do not advocate abortion are out there to recommend an alternative that can save the life of her baby and avoid all the trauma that an abortion ensues. And one of them to consider is adoption. I remember watching some years back a movie that compassionately deals with this issue, and below is an excerpt from a review that Focus on the Family wrote on 'Bella'.

'Indeed, *Bella* is an unusually intelligent, humane film that reminds us how easy it is to impact one person's life – and perhaps save another's – simply by being sensitive to hurting people and carving out time to care. It is a tender tale of grace, faith, redemption and the sanctity of life.

'Eduardo Verástegui - the lead actor - knows his little film - he also co-produced it - won't dominate the box office. But he doesn't mind. *"I was caught up in the stardom and money of this business, like so many actors,"* he told us, *"But I was drawn to do this. To just do something worthwhile."* Thus, he and his fellow producers stepped away from successful careers to pursue an independent film with no guarantees. He said with emotion, *"What I'd love to see happen with this film is to someday have this 12-year-old knock on my door and say that her mother was going to have an abortion. But she saw this film. That would be my Oscar."*

'He continued, *"This film is for the Ninas of the world. This film is not for the people who already agree that life is personal and has dignity. I want to touch the girls who come from broken families who don't know anything about all these important issues—and next thing you know they find themselves pregnant and they think it's fine to just go and have an abortion because that is what they have been taught. I want to reach them and embrace them and love them through the film and then by that they can choose what is best for them, which is to have their baby."*

'Bella's pondering of love and true values may just be vivid enough to accomplish the things Verástegui hopes it will.'

As a Christian and Bible believer, the comments that this film isn't for the people who already agree that life is personal and has dignity, especially caught my attention. It is true that for Christians who believe in God and in his Word, this issue shouldn't be a controversy at all. For God clearly commanded that we shall not murder. And abortion is the premeditated killing of an innocent human being. But should we conclude that all Christians never faced or will never face this dilemma at one point in their lives?

In one of his sermons on abortion, John McArthur, Pastor and Teacher, wrote that he received the following letter one day and had on his heart to share it with others. *"Dear John, I have always been a Christian as long as I can remember. And at the age of 17, I had an abortion. I can't even begin to explain the despair and anger which I felt then. My relationship with my parents was not good. At that time, I moved out of our home to keep my parents from knowing. I worked full time and completed high school. It was hell. There was no one to help me, no one to confide in. I was*

so frightened. I went to Planned Parenthood and told them I wanted my baby. They thought I was crazy.

“In no way did they offer me another alternative, such as adoption or help. The only advice they offered me was that of an abortion and how to go to Medi-Cal and tell them I didn’t know who the father was. That way, Medi-Cal would pay for it. The ordeal was a horrendous nightmare I’ll never forget. I remember especially the doctor singing opera while the procedure was being done. I cried for months thereafter. The only thing that pulled me through was the fact that Jesus forgave me, and with His blessing I now have three beautiful little girls, and I keep reassuring myself that in heaven I also have a child I haven’t yet met.”

As I read this heartfelt letter coming from a remorseful, thankful and grateful mom, I was reminded of my favorite Psalms where the author says: *“Thank you [God] for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous – and how well I know it. You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book! How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can’t even count how many times a day your thoughts turn towards me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!”*¹

I now think of all the women out there who are desperately trying to become pregnant but for some reason are unable to conceive. I can only imagine how they feel about abortion... But what can I say to you?.. I have not walked the path you’re walking on so how can I understand what you’re going through?.. How can my words be of some comfort in your moments of discouragement and hopelessness?.. I can only say that my heart goes out to you because I’ve witnessed one of my daughters-in-law going through the same thing. She was told by her physician that she couldn’t conceive. Well, it wasn’t meant to be because she finally gave birth to two beautiful children! She and her husband call them their ‘miracle babies’! God gave her the joy of becoming a mother after ten years of marriage! So, only God knows what his plans are for you and they’re all good; and it is my earnest prayer that you may find peace through these emotional times in your life.

As for my husband and me, this issue on abortion is very dear to our hearts, and we are committed to support ‘Answers’², a resource facility for women and families in our area. Their mission is to offer hope and restoration to women in need regardless of their race, age, religious background, or financial status. Their hope is that those who enter their doors find a safe, non-judgmental place to unload some of the heavy burdens they are carrying.

Our prayers are with those who relentlessly work and give so selflessly of their time to this cause, as well as for every woman out there who needs help, guidance and support in making the right decision, which is to have her baby.

¹Psalms 139:13-18

²FindAnswersNow.org