

PRO-LIFE "BUTS"

You've all heard them say it. "Yes, I'm pro-life, **BUT...**"

Once they utter the terrible "but" there is no longer any reason to wonder what they will say next. They can be depended on to mumble one of the growing list of reasons "pro-life" Christians give for doing nothing that has the power to force this nation to abolish legalized abortion. **As a regular feature of The Abortion Abolitionist**, we will focus on one of the "pro-life buts." This issue the "pro-life" leader who embodies the mindset and the tactics that must be judged and removed from influence before legalized abortion will ever be abolished in this nation is:

RANDALL

Randall Terry was once a greatly respected and beloved leader of the past non-violent civil disobedience phase of the pro-life movement. Thousands of people followed him to death's door...and for a few, beyond death's door. (There is the mother who lost her baby after being beaten by police for blockading a butchertorium door).

Randall Terry has announced he is returning to public action with the avowed goal of leading Christians proliferators again as he once led the "pro-life rescue" movement through the organization he founded called Operation Rescue. **BUT...**

Randall Terry has done other things in the not so distant past that prove he is not presently qualified to be a leader in the body of Christ, and especially not qualified to be a leader of God's people who are trying to abolish legalized abortion.

To understand what he has done requires an examination of the minimum requirements of a Christian leader and, further, an examination of the special requirements of a Christian leader called to take the lead in abolishing legalized abortion.

THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF A CHRISTIAN LEADER

At a minimum, a Christian leader must act like he is in Christ Jesus. That is a short sentence but it will require some serious explaining before what I mean by it will be clear.

To a Christian leader, the words "to be in Christ Jesus" cannot be simply empty symbols or figures of speech; they must be the actual description of the mental, spiritual and physical condition of the leader.

Many Christians throughout history have treated what the Bible says about our union with Christ Jesus as if the words were figures of speech, not the very sounds explaining the greatest mystery in the history of the world, a mystery that was clarified and fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you don't understand it is possible for Christian leaders to deal with the most holy ideas in the Bible as if they were merely figures of speech, look around you today and you will see a generation of Christian leaders to whom the words in the Bible, while believed, are believed as abstractions, not experienced as fact. You can prove that they are believed as abstractions rather than experienced as fact because this generation of Christians stands by and does nothing but mouth empty figures of speech as the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ is driven from His rightful and hard-won place of authority in this nation and in this world.

The following passage shows us that God's word warned us such things could happen. For this text at least, the NIV translates the Greek best. Col 2:¹⁸See to it that no one



TERRY

takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

God was trying to tell us that reason, logic, words, ideas, thoughts, deductions, inferences—all the activities of the mind—can work together perfectly in order and in harmony with each other; but if the basic premise upon which all those activities of mind is built is a false premise, the output will be as false as if

the activities were occurring in the deranged brain of a blubbering maniac.

Satan's favorite ploy involves convincing a person of a false foundational presupposition—a false basic premise—then providing that person with impeccable logic, reason and even world-class eloquence in developing and defending the ideas built upon the false presupposition. Satan loves doing this because to an uninformed and gullible world the communication output of the satanically infected person looks like wisdom and the person is therefore raised high by the world as an example of the epitome of advanced human thought.

As Christians, our basic premise is our union with Christ Jesus. Our union with Christ Jesus is how we got saved, how we obtained access to the Holy of Holies, how we obtained access to eternal life, how we obtained access to everything that Holy Scripture says is coming to those who are in Christ. Without our union with Christ Jesus, there is no basis for salvation, or hope for access to His Spirit. But in light of our union with Christ we literally become members of His Body.

Now what I am talking about is undoubtedly a great mystery, but it is a mystery that God has worked very hard to help people understand.

One of the primary ways God works to help people understand the mystery of union with Christ is to create and call Christians leaders for that purpose.

As a primary teaching tool, God puts into the hands of those Christian leaders the thing we call marriage, or what Christendom has historically called Holy Matimony.

The Apostle Paul explains what I am trying to talk about in Ephesians 5:³¹For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³²This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

You do not have to drill very far into the meaning of the passage to see that Paul is saying that the act of two people physically connecting themselves in sexual intercourse [be one flesh] was created by God as a way to help people understand, as the KJV renders it, "a great mystery; namely Christ and the Church."

It is right there that people can see why God becomes greatly incensed when people misuse either the act of sexual intercourse or the institution of marriage. And it is right there that Randall Terry demonstrated that he does not understand what a Christian leader needs to understand.

The Pro-Life Movement and Personal Sin

The evidence is found in an interview called "Barry Manilow Got Saved: Randall Terry Makes a Comeback" by John W. Whitehead published on Feb 10, 2003 in the Rutherford Institutes online magazine called OldSpeak.

Since the interview was a way to announce that Randall Terry "was back" the interview had to address the fact that many Christians had accused Randall Terry of sin. Everyone anywhere near the pro-life movement knew that in the years when Randall Terry was "away" he had divorced his wife and children, been excommunicated by the congregation where he once belonged, and remarried and started a new family.

To get that matter out of the way, Whitehead broached the subject of sin with Randall Terry.

John Whitehead stated, "In the last few years, you've been accused of many things, including a pattern of conduct that your own former pastor calls sinful...your former pastor, Dan Little, posted a letter where he notes that you left your wife of 18 years and states that one reason you were censured by your church was for 'a pattern of repeated sinful relationships and conversations with both single and married women.'"

Randall Terry replied, "The people who have been attacking me have no authority in my life whatsoever. They're on a personal vendetta against me...The bottom line is this: I never had an affair with anybody. So I'm dealing with a reputation problem now. People think I'm an adulterer and that I abandoned my kids...And it's not true...So it was a lie from the beginning."

To see how Randall Terry's reply fits in with everything I earlier said about the importance of our union with Christ, look closely at what he said. Randall Terry clearly implied that he had not had sexual relationships with anyone other than the woman he joined in Holy Matrimony prior to divorcing her. I do not accuse Randall Terry of lying about that. But even as Randall Terry denied that he had fornicated outside his first marriage and denied abandoning his kids, did you notice that he said not one single word about getting divorced from his wife? Not one word.

Divorce was also a non-subject with John Whitehead. The interview proves he asked nothing specifically designed to draw Terry into a discussion about the meaning of his divorce. In other words, based on what was printed in the interview (and there is no reason to suspect that John Whitehead did not have ample time and opportunity to include every question he felt had to be asked and answered) John Whitehead saw no sinful significance in the fact that Randall Terry had chosen to divorce himself from a marriage conceived as Holy Matrimony.

MARRIAGE AS AN EXAMPLE OF CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

The significance of that omission is a parable or a paradigm or a case study—take your pick, all of them apply—of how the pro-life movement became disconnected from Holy Scripture. Holy matrimony, as the Apostle Paul explains in

Ephesians 5 is actually all about "...a great mystery, namely, Christ and the Church." For a man who claims to be a Christian leader to sever the bonds of Holy Matrimony and then not understand and confess it to be grievous sin of the highest magnitude is to create grave confusion in this world and in the Church.

Why? Because it creates the impression that Christ Jesus could or would sever Himself from His Bride. A man who claims to be a Christian leader claims to be in union with the Lord Jesus Christ. For such a man to divorce his wife, for any grounds other than adultery, and then not act for the rest of his life like it was one of the gravest sins that can ever be committed against the Lord Jesus Christ is a man who leads people into confusion. A real Christian leader will never be the author of confusion. Or if he is, he will confess it as sin, repent and abstain from it in the future.

Am I saying that a Christian leader cannot divorce? No, that is not what I am saying. It is obvious that a Christian leader can sin in any and every way that an unbeliever can sin.

What a Christian leader cannot do is divorce without seeing it as sin and confessing it as sin. When Randall Terry decided not to call what he did sin, he proved that he is not qualified to be a leader of God's people.

A real Christian leader **WILL** understand his union with the Lord Jesus Christ well enough to understand what I am saying about the sanctity of Holy Matrimony. A person who sins by committing divorce then refuses to confess his sin so that all who are influenced by him can understand the deadly horror of that sin is disqualified from being perceived as a Christian leader. Such a man treats his sin as no sin at all and thereby proves he does not have the Spirit of Truth as his guide.

A man who divorces and does not confess it as sin hides the truth rather than reveals the truth. He acts like the truth is not in him. And a man who does not have the truth in him does not have the Holy Spirit within him because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. A divorced man who refuses to confess that his divorce was a sinful act proves he is no Christian leader, all protestations to the contrary notwithstanding.

Am I saying that a man who is divorced is disqualified to be a Christian leader? No, were I to be saying that I would be defining my own disqualification as a Christian leader because before I married my present wife of 32 years, I was divorced twice. But I confess those divorces as some of the rankest examples of my own personal sinful behavior. Those divorces occurred when I was living my life like a fool, acting as if the commands of God meant nothing in my life, utterly disregarding my union with Christ and treating the sacrifice Christ Jesus had made for me as worthless.

But the point is I confess my sin anytime there is a question about divorce and God uses my confession of my own sin as a way to show others how He can restore sinners

Continued on Page 26



Terry: Continued from Page 15

like me to full and effective service in His kingdom. This is what it means to act like we are in Christ Jesus.

There is a confusion working today that says people have to act like they are Jesus Christ. That is what they mean when they go around saying "What Would Jesus Do" as if it is possible for us to do the things Jesus Christ can do.

I'll tell you what Jesus would do. He would say to the fig tree, "Die," and it would die. He would say, "Go to hell," and the people to whom he spoke would go to hell. He would say, "Be saved," and the people would be saved. He would die for the sins of the world and the penalty of those sins would be paid...for those who were in Him.

The fact is we are not Jesus Christ: He is. And we do not have to do what Jesus Christ would do to be all right with God, to be used by Him to accomplish every purpose for which we were created. All we have to do is be in Christ Jesus. If we are in Christ Jesus, we will do exactly what is required to complete those works which, from before the beginning of time, we were created to complete.

God help us see that it is not sin that keeps us from abolishing legalized abortion in this generation, it is unconfessed sin! God, in Christ Jesus, has paid the penalty that can set us free from slavery to sin! If we confess our sin, he is faithful and just to forgive us of sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. It is the unconfessed sin among Christians in this generation that makes us powerless as a body to arrest the desecration in our midst, to arrest the wanton and legalized wholesale slaughter of the least among us!

When Randall Terry said nothing about the sin of his divorce, and when John Whitehead let him get away with it, they both proved that they are disqualified to be leaders of anyone other than people like themselves, people who believe they are in Christ Jesus even when they harbor unconfessed sin in their souls.

Earlier I said such people create grave confusion. I call it grave confusion because it is the kind of confusion that leads people to the grave. In the case of pro-life leaders like Randall Terry and John Whitehead who lead others to ignore grave sin, it leads millions of unborn babies to the grave...well, not literally to the grave. Literally, it leads them to metal containers that are picked up daily by a large truck often bearing the icon of BFI Medical Services, which truck then carries them to the place where they incinerate medical waste like cancer biopsies and surgically removed tumors—and dead unborn babies.

Think about how confusing it is to have a Christian leader who claims to be opposed to legalized abortion when that person demonstrates that they don't have a clue about how closely connected Holy Matrimony or the act of sexual intercourse are connected to the knowledge of union with Christ. Legalized abortion grows directly from a perverted understanding of sexual intercourse. If people understood the awesome sanctity of the act of sexual intercourse, and the horrible punishment God has waiting for those who violate the sanctity of sexual intercourse, then there would be a powerful deterrent operating to nullify the effects of legalized abortion.

The Associated Press reported on May 29, 2003 about the popularity of Internet arranged divorces, "—Offering a simpler and cheaper path to divorce, an ever-growing array of dot-coms, computer-savvy lawyers and state court officials are encouraging unhappily married Americans to arrange their breakups online. ..The phenomenon is spreading."

How can we ever expect anybody to understand why God forbids fornication and does everything in His power to show us why matrimony is holy if the "Christian leaders" of the "pro-life movement" prove by their actions that they don't have a clue why the acts of fornication, adultery and divorce are so sinful in the eyes of God?

We can't. It's simply irrational to think anybody can be taught the truth about this matter if the teachers themselves don't know what they should be teaching.

But now Randall Terry is "back" and he brings with him a "strategy."

"My goal," Randall Terry told John Whitehead, "is to find 20- to 25-year-old kids and help them think in terms of biblical Christianity and Christian history. I want to see those people leading the country so that 20 years from now Roe v. Wade will be on the ash heap of history."

In other words, the point of the Randall Terry interview was this: After three decades of Roe v. Wade, we are now to prepare for at least two more decades according to the "strategy" Randall Terry is going to teach to the "kids".

Do you see the absolutely startling significance of such an idea?

To see what I'm talking about, ask yourself this question: given our present historical reality, where can any Christian teacher find Biblical justification for building their ministry on the assumption that the United States of America, or any work of man for that matter, will exist in 20 years?

Is it not obvious that the Holy Spirit is today using the Holy Bible to alert people all across the world that any individual or any nation that refuses to honor God as God is removed from any right or justification for assuming the protection of God for even 20 minutes much less 20 years?

If you consider yourself a Christian and do not understand that is the clear point of Romans 1:17ff, you might as well quit reading this and toss it in the trash can because you will not understand anything I try to say or preach or teach. **If I am ever going to communicate with such "Christians", it will have to be later when the plagues and punishment from God described in this issue have begun to have their full effect and self-deceived "Christians" have learned what it means to be a sinner in the hands of an angry God.**

But if you sense the awesome presumption contained in Randall Terry's "goal" of using the next twenty years to put Roe v. Wade on the "ash heap" then you are an abortion abolitionist who can help deliver people from "pro-life butts" like Randall Terry.

Won't you take the initiative in making sure that others you know who might in fact be abortion abolitionists have the chance to think about these things with us?