

Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. I have not preached on this topic in at least eight years, so this is long in coming. It has been 46 years since the Supreme Court ruled on Roe v. Wade and in that time, do you know the estimated number of abortions performed in the US? Most of you probably know the number already but before I go any further, let me anchor this important in a much more important topic—the gospel.

1. We must keep the gospel as primary.

DA Carson made a fantastic observation about the history of Mennonite practice.

One generation of Mennonites believed the gospel and held as well that there were certain social, economic, and political entailments (eg. abortion, racism, immigration, healthcare).

The next generation assumed the gospel but identified with the entailments.

The following generation denied the gospel: the "entailments" became everything.

Assuming this sort of scheme for evangelicalism, one suspects that large swaths of the movement are lodged in the second step, with some drifting toward the third.¹

So as important as this topic is, it is not the gospel.

2. Our compassion for people should be at least as high as our passion for this topic. Why do women get abortions? Many who oppose abortion approach the topic with precious little compassion. We are right to be passionate about the lives of the unborn but we must not assume that all abortions are driven by selfishness and convenience. "A survey of women in post-abortion support groups found that more than 83 percent said they would have continued the pregnancy if they had been given more support from others."² What we fail to understand is the level of desperation that some women feel. They are afraid, feel alone and can get a choking sense of desperation. Here's the distinction we need to make. Abortion is the taking of a human life but the woman who gets an abortion is not a murderer. If this survey is correct, the majority

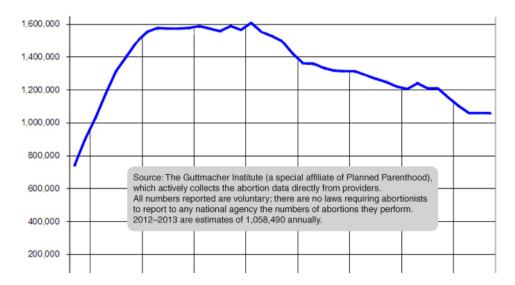
would not have gotten an abortion if they had not felt so desperate. Our compassion will save more lives than our rhetoric.

With that in mind, here is the number: 60,069,971. This is an incomprehensibly sad number. Worse still is the fact that almost this number are killed every year worldwide.³



There is a tiny bit of good news in that the total number of abortions have been slowly decreasing

since the early 90's. They peaked at 1.6 million per year and are now hovering around 1 million a year. It's still an immensely bleak picture but at least it has been headed in the right direction.

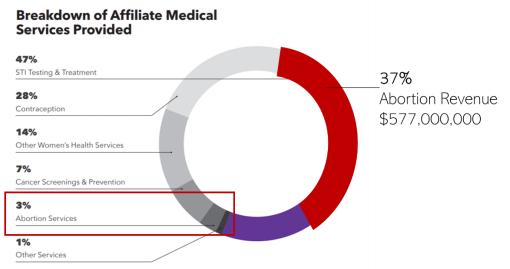


To show you what we are up against, we need go no further than what, Leane Wen, the new president of Planned Parenthood said shortly after she was elected last year.

First, our core mission is providing, protecting and expanding access to abortion and reproductive health care. We will never back down from that fight—it's a fundamental human right and women's lives are at stake.⁴

This is almost surprising to me given the fact that Planned Parenthood has tried really hard to downplay the impact of abortion on their business. They like to say that they are a health clinic that is essential for women's health. If that were really true, then why are their cancer screenings down 64% in the last nine years? Moreover, as this graph shows, they constantly throw out the 3% figure, stating that only 3% of their "visits" are abortions. This is an extreme numbers game because even though only 3% of people who visit a Planned Parenthood clinic get an abortion, 37% of their revenue comes from abortions. The revenue from abortions they perform earn them a whopping \$577 million in one year. Planned Parenthood's revenue in their 2016-2017 fiscal year was \$1.5 billion.⁵ \$543 million of that was provided by federal, state or local funding. In

2009 it was \$1.1 billion, so they keep increasing their revenue by hundreds of millions of dollars every year.



Abortion is a great evil, which is why we first must go to Scripture to inform us and to strengthen our resolve toward right action.

1. Scripture affirms that human life begins at conception and is created in the image of God. Before I jump into a few Scriptures, please make note of this fact. The rightness of wrongness of abortion hinges on one simple fact—is a fetus a human life or not? As we already saw in that earlier quote, some people will fight for abortions no matter what. There's little we can do to convince that sort of activist. However, if the average person can be convinced that a fetus is an actual person, we will have won the argument. Everything hinges on this point.

We should definitely begin this pursuit at the same place the Bible begins—Genesis chapter one.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Every person is indelibly stamped with the image of God. Furthermore, God breathed into us the breath of life. This is what sets us apart from every other living creature. We are unique, one of a kind image bearers. This is the foundation of our dignity and of the sanctity of human life. But it gets even better.

One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible also happens to be a powerhouse prolife passage—Psalm 139. In the entire Psalm, David is declaring how perfectly and intimately he is known by God.

¹³ For you formed my inward parts;

you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

Knitted together in my mother's womb. Fearfully and wonderfully made. These are poetic words that pack a punch. Not only do they speak of the intricacies of fetal development, this passage show that each of us was conceived in the eternal purpose of God prior to our physical conception. In many ways, this one text would be sufficient to prove that life begins at conception, but thankfully we have many more.

Jeremiah 1:5 is almost identical to Psalm 139.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Job 31:15

Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

Psalm 22;10 On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

Galatians 1:15 But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace

We could go to other Scriptures but you should be able to clearly see that the Bible affirms that human life begins at conception.

2. Science proves that human life begins at conception.

As believers, Scripture is the last word on this subject, but since we live and work among folks who do not hold to the authority of the Word of God, we need to be able to articulate a prolife position that is more broad. I would never depend on science to tell me that Jesus could have risen from the dead. That is a miracle and is by definition, outside of the scientific realm. However, if science can validate the inherent humanness and dignity of people which Scripture affirms, then we want to understand it and make use of it—either for our own commitment to

this topic or else in conversations with others. In other words, we don't need science to validate that human life begins at conception but since it clearly does so, we should bathe ourselves in this truth.

This statement from the Prochoice Action Network is representative of how the other side thinks and promotes their view.

At the outset, let me say that from a pro-choice point of view, the status of the fetus is a peripheral issue. *Regardless of whether a fetus is a human being or has rights*, women will have abortions anyway, even if it means breaking the law or risking their lives. Even women who believe that abortion is murder have chosen to get abortions, and will continue to do so. That's why we should leave the decision up to women's moral conscience, and make sure that they are provided with safe, legal, accessible abortions. *Because ultimately, the status of a fetus is a matter of subjective opinion*, and the only opinion that counts is that of the pregnant woman.⁶

Did you notice the insane inconsistency in her viewpoint? On the one hand, she allows for the possibility is a human being and has rights but on the other hand she claims that is subjective and essentially, unknowable. She is saying that subjective opinion will always trump objective fact. This is the kind of thinking and rhetoric that we are up against.

In contrast to this claim of subjectivity, take a look at this sampling of scientific opinion, most of whom, to my knowledge, do not claim any Biblical foundation for their conclusions. This is pure scientific research.

- [The zygote], formed by the union of an oocyte and a sperm, is the beginning of a new human being.⁷ (This is the most widely used textbook on human embryology.)⁸
- Fertilization is an important landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new, genetically distinct human organism is thereby formed.⁹
- Human embryos begin development following the fusion of definitive male and female gametes during fertilization[.] ... This moment of zygote formation may be taken as the beginning or zero time point of embryonic development.¹⁰
- The two cells gradually and gracefully become one. This is the moment of conception [fertilization], when an individual's unique set of DNA is created, a human signature that never existed before and will never be repeated.¹¹
- It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive...It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception.¹²
- To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion ... it is plain experimental evidence. Each individual has a very neat beginning, at conception.¹³
- By all criteria of modern molecular biology, life is present from the moment of conception. ... Science has a very simple conception of man; as soon as he has been conceived, a man is a man.¹⁴
- When fertilization is complete, a unique genetic human entity exists.¹⁵

I could list two or three times more quotes to prove this point, but I think these should overwhelm you with the facts. There is no question that Science proves that human life begins at conception.

So far we have seen the Biblical argument and the scientific argument now I'd like to show you a good logical argument to use, the **SLED** acronym.¹⁶

Size

Level of development Environment Degree of dependency

Size

A one year old is bigger than a newborn but no one would argue that a one year old has more value. An adult is bigger than a one year old but size does not equate to intrinsic value. In the same way, the smaller size of the fetus does not diminish his or her value.

Level of development



The last time I played Pictionary, this is what my "teddy bear" looked like. Most people thought it was a ginger bread man, and I can't blame them. So my artwork may be more developed than the aforementioned one year old, but you might argue, not by much. We don't execute everyone with an IQ less than 100—

even though Margaret Sanger, the funder of Planned Parenthood, wanted to sterilize them. Smarter people do not have more value than people with less developed intellect. In the same way, a fetus does not have less value due to its earlier stage of development.

Environment

This one should be obvious. Why is it that killing a newborn baby that was two months premature is a crime but aborting a fetus in its seventh month is perfectly legal under certain circumstances. There is no logic for one having more value than the other.

Degree of dependency

A newborn can't do anything for himself. A one year old can put food in her mouth but she can't change her own diapers. The one year old does not have more value just because she is less dependent than the newborn. Therefore, a fetus does not have less value because he or she is dependent on their mother.

In 2006, a girl named Amilia Taylor was born in Miami, FL after less than 22 weeks of maturation. As you can see, she was barely longer than a pen and weighed 0.6 pounds. In the US, many states permit abortion for any reason up to 24 weeks, 2 weeks longer than Amilia.



In 2017 Amilia was reported to be a happy, healthy 11-year-old girl. Her mother Sonja said, "To think that she could have been an aborted fetus just left to die makes me physically ill."¹⁷

3. The pro-choice movement will stop at nothing to win this battle.

We have already seen the all-out commitment of Planned Parenthood. They are the largest



abortion provider, but they are hardly the only active prochoice voice. There is a newer activist group called Shout Your Abortion. These women tell stories about how great their abortion was. It's quite sick and sad.

In May of last year, Scott Walker signed a bill that included this law. "A woman must undergo an ultrasound before obtaining an abortion; the provider must show and describe



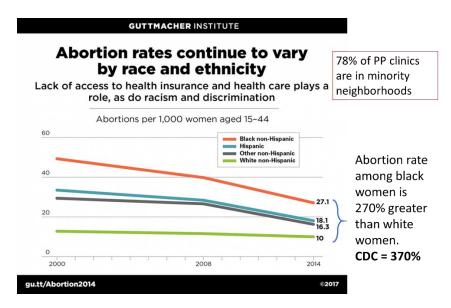
the image to the woman." 3-D ultrasound

images such as these have already helped women considering an abortion to change their mind.

In response to this prolife bill, just this past Wednesday, "Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin asked a federal judge Wednesday to strike down laws that prevent nurses from performing abortions and limit the ability of women to obtain medications that induce abortions."¹⁸

One prolife organization highlights the racist nature of the abortion movement, a website called blackgenocide.org. They are the leading prolife movement in the black community. The Guttmacher Institute is the research arm of Planned Parenthood and you can see this black genocide from their own statistics. The abortion rate among black women is 270% greater than that of white women. The CDC reports that it is actually 370% higher.¹⁹ 78% of Planned

Parenthood's clinics are in minority neighborhoods, placed there under the guise of providing healthcare for the poor.



This is not surprising considering that Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood was a strong proponent of the eugenics movement seeking to eliminate anyone who did not fit in the mold of the ideal white person. In her own biography she writes about speaking to the KKK.

I accepted an invitation to talk to the women's branch of the Ku Klux Klan...I saw through the door dim figures parading with banners and illuminated crosses...I was escorted to the platform, was introduced, and began to speak...In the end, through simple illustrations I believed I had accomplished my purpose. A dozen invitations to speak to similar groups were proffered.²⁰

Unfortunately, two-thirds of African Americans are pro-choice²¹ but I was shocked to learn that Jesse Jackson used to be strongly prolife. Here is how and why he eventually became pro-choice.

1973—"Abortion is black genocide."²²

1975—"Killing babies" is symptomatic of a civilization and culture which operates without sacred absolutes.²³

1975—Joined Ruth Graham (Billy Graham's wife) working for a constitution amendment banning abortion.²⁴

1977—"I must oppose the use of federal funds for a policy of killing infants."²⁵

1978—spoke at the fifth annual March for Life²⁶

1980—compared abortion to slavery

1984—while on the campaign trail for president said, "I do support freedom of choice..."²⁷

That's obvious, isn't it? Jackson sacrificed his prolife beliefs on the altar of politics and selfishness. What other power in the universe besides politics would make a person commit such hypocrisy?



Mrs. Coretta Scott King accepts the PPFA Margaret Sanger Award from Cass Canfield, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PPFA-World Population Emergency Campaign.

tonight."28 (Coretta King's full speech)29

Tomorrow is Martin Luther King Jr Day. Would you guess that Dr King was prolife or prochoice? Two years before he was assassinated, Dr. King was awarded with the Margaret sanger Award from Planned Parenthood. His wife received the award and began her acceptance speech by praising Sanger.

"I am proud tonight to say a word in behalf of your mentor, and the person who symbolizes the ideas of this organization, Margaret Sanger. Because of her dedication, her deep convictions, and for her suffering for what she believed in, I would like to say that I am proud to be a woman

None of this diminishes all of the good things that Dr. King accomplished. Also, at this time in history, Planned Parenthood was not performing abortions. They were just handing our contraception. Furthermore, it seems that Dr. King was probably deceived by Planned Parenthood. In fact, this is the belief of Dr. King's niece, Alveda King.

Dr. King was among a select group of Negro leaders, hand picked to promote a seemingly beneficial plan to promote healthy family planning. It was a plan of wolf in sheep's clothing, and Trojan Horse proportions. Dr. King, a man of love, peace, non-violence and strong Christian faith would be assassinated before the truth of the Planned Parenthood map for genocide would be made public after the passage of Roe VS Wade. The abortion agenda is in direct conflict with the teachings of Dr. King.³⁰



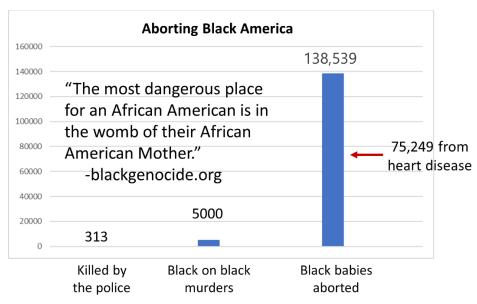
Planned Parenthood Action 🤣 @PPact

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dedicated his life to the idea that racial and economic justice are foundational to our democracy. Today, we honor his courageous vision and radical action — and commit to furthering his dream by continuing the fight for justice. #MLKday ♥ 525 10:56 AM - Jan 15, 2018 Last year Planned parenthood sent a tweet in an effort to continue to show that Dr. King sided with them.³¹

In 2017 Alveda King, shared how she was almost aborted.

King said her parents had considered getting an abortion until her grandfather, Martin Luther King Sr., "prophetically" intervened. Though they didn't have ultrasound machines at the time, King said her grandfather had strongly rejected the claim that the fetus was "just a lump of flesh." He said that the baby was a granddaughter whom he had seen in a dream three years prior.³²

An article in the Washington Times called Aborting Black America declared that the "black lives matter slogan excludes the unborn.³³ Here is the data in graph form.



The number of blacks killed by police in 2015 was 313. It's so small it doesn't even show up on the graph. The number of black on black murders was about 5000 but even this is dwarfed by the number of black babies killed by abortion. In 2015, 75,249 blacks died from heart disease.³⁴

It's no wonder that Rev. Clenard Childress, the founder of blackgenocide.org has said that "The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb of their African American Mother."³⁵ This in no way is meant to diminish and pockets of racism that still exist in law enforcement. That is just as evil as abortion, but this does put those statistics into perspective.

4. There is always forgiveness after an abortion.

Any time you speak about the evils of abortion, we should always include the mercy and forgiveness available through Christ. If Paul were alive today he would been brought up on charges of murder, racketeering, hate crimes and terrorism. He was one bad dude. But Jesus miraculously saved him while he was on his way to do even more evil. The Lord does not want any woman—or man—to carry the weight of guilt of this sin. There is no sin that is beyond the reach of God's amazing grace, including abortion. "For all have sinned and fall short of the lory of God" (Romans 3:23) We are no different, no better than anyone else. One sin separates us form God, regardless of what that sin is.

5. Ways to be active as a prolife person.

• Never forget that this is a spiritual battle

We can be engaged in the culture and work for Biblical ethics and morality. However, we must also make sure we do not lose sight of the fact that working for morality is secondary to the proclamation of the gospel. If we are more concerned about winning an argument than we are about caring for the souls of those with whom we disagree, we have already lost the battle. Prochoice people need Jesus. I am not saying it is impossible to be a Christian and also be prochoice. I would not want to be that definitive or legalistic about it but in the vast majority of cases, the greatest need is for these people to know Jesus. This is a spiritual battle and must be fought with spiritual weapons.

• Be fully pro-life

Prolifers are constantly criticized about only caring about fetuses and no one else. Most of that criticism is a smokescreen. "Some sources estimate that there are about 2 million couples currently waiting to adopt in the United States — which means there are as many as 36 couples waiting for every one child who is placed for adoption."³⁶ There are a million abortions in the US every year so even if this estimate of the number of couples waiting for adoption is off by 50% it means that there are a million couples waiting for every one of the million babies who are aborted each year.

Your pro-life views may extend beyond abortion. Be fully prolife in any way you see fit but a stand against abortion must be a part of your view.

• Vote

If this were a road trip, right here is where you would see a sign that reads, "Caution—Opinion Ahead." I want you to clearly understand that my comments on voting and politics is merely my opinion. I am on record as being an unapologetic one-issue voter. I will not vote for any candidate that would be in favor of aborting helpless babies. It just so happens that the candidates that are prolife also mostly align with my other views. But I am willing to hold my nose and vote for some with whom I disagree on some topics if they uphold the sanctity of human life. This is my opinion. I don't have a chapter and verse that says "thou shalt do likewise," that you also must only vote for prolife candidates. But the fact is that our vote counts. As I said, Scott Walker signed a bill that could really help to reduce the number of abortions. Last month, Ohio governor signed into law the "Dismemberment Abortion Ban."³⁷ Wouldn't you like that in our state? In our nation? There is no question that conservatives on the Supreme Court could influence abortion laws.

Now some might say that there are political views on both sides that are prolife in other ways. If a candidate wants access to health care or wants to help the poor, isn't that also a prolife stance? Yes it is. One view may feel more compassionate than another and maybe it is sometimes. But here's the difference. No one is against healthcare or against assisting the poor but there is merely disagreement about how to best accomplish these goals. But the prochoice platform flat out denies that human life begins at conception. There's no attempt to care for the unborn in a different way but instead they vigorously fight for the right to end these precious lives.

• Have "tough and tender" conversations

I go back to the end of 2 Timothy again and again.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Another way of restating this passage would be that how we speak is at least as important as what we say. Here's one application of this passage. Don't call prochoice people murderers and baby-killers. Some of them will call you names but do not retaliate. Be respectful. Be tough-minded in your appeal. If it helps you, use some of the information I have presented this

morning. You don't have to be wimpy about your convictions, but we must be gentle in our demeanor.

This photo was taken at last Friday's March for Life in DC. Love them both. We can and we must.

Rich Maurer January 20, 2019



Additional scientific evidence that human life begins at conception

- Although life is a continuous process, fertilization ... is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new genetically distinct human organism is formed when the chromosomes of the male and female pronuclei blend in the oocyte.³⁸
- Embryo: The developing individual between the union of the germ cells and the completion of the organs which characterize its body when it becomes a separate organism. ... At the moment the sperm cell of the human male meets the ovum of the female and the union results in a fertilized ovum (zygote), a new life has begun.³⁹

- ⁹ Human Embryology & Teratology (Ronan R. O'Rahilly, Fabiola Muller [New York: Wiley-Liss, 1996], 5-55)
- ¹⁰ William J. Larsen, Essentials of Human Embryology [New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1998, pp. 1, 14]
- ¹¹ National Geographic, "In the Womb," 2005.
- ¹² Dr. Micheline M. Mathews-Roth, Harvard Medical School, Subcommittee on Separation of Powers to Senate Judiciary Committee S-158, Report, 97th Congress, 1st Session, 1981).

¹ https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/it-only-takes-one-generation-for-a-church-to-die/ ² http://www.theunchoice.com/News/fatherplayskeyrole.htm

³ Estimated at 56 million, https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-worldwide

⁴ https://twitter.com/DrLeanaWen/status/1082660986513960966

⁵ https://www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2018.pdf

⁶ http://www.prochoiceactionnetwork-canada.org/articles/fetusperson.shtml

⁷ Keith Moore, Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology (7th edition, Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2008, p. 2

⁸ https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4857703

¹³ "Father of Modern Genetics" Dr. Jerome Lejeune, Subcommittee on Separation of Powers to Senate Judiciary Committee S-158, Report, 97th Congress, 1st Session, 1981).

¹⁴ Gordon, Hymie, M.D., FRCP, chairman of medical genetics, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Subcommittee on Separation of Powers to Senate Judiciary Committee S-158, Report, 97th Congress, 1st Session, 1981).

¹⁵ C. Christopher Hook, M.D. Oncologist, Mayo Clinic, Director of Ethics Education, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Subcommittee on Separation of Powers to Senate Judiciary Committee S-158, Report, 97th Congress, 1st Session, 1981).

¹⁶ https://www.str.org/articles/the-s.l.e.d.-test#.XEOvEVxKg2w

¹⁷ https://www.health24.com/Parenting/News/we-could-see-her-lungs-through-her-skin-the-premature-baby-who-defied-all-odds-20171117

¹⁸ https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2019/01/16/planned-parenthood-sues-over-wisconsin-abortion-restrictions/2586697002/

¹⁹ https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2018-11-21/abortions-down-24-percent-over-a-decade-in-us

²⁰ Margaret Sanger: An Autobiography, p.366.

²¹ https://www.isidewith.com/poll/965629/290416960

²² https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/jesse-jacksons-evolving-standards-genocide-daniel-foster/

²³ https://thecatholicnewsarchive.org/?a=d&d=CTR19741206-01.2.9

²⁴ https://saynsumthn.wordpress.com/2011/03/10/rev-jesse-jacksons-abortion-flip-flop-timeline/

²⁵ https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1988/05/21/jacksons-reversal-on-

abortion/dd9e1637-020d-447b-9329-95ec67e41fd5/?utm_term=.7c67ed07157c

²⁶ https://www.liveaction.org/news/hyde-amendment-was-supported-by-black-civil-rights-leaders/

²⁷ https://www.jefferymyersunleashed.io/jesse_jackson

²⁸ https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-gulf-coast/mlk-acceptance-speech

²⁹ https://www.priestsforlife.org/king-planned-parenthood-1-8.pdf

³⁰ http://www.civilrightsfortheunborn.org/martin-luther-king-unborn.htm

³¹ https://twitter.com/ppact/status/952947649644285953?lang=en

³² https://www.texasrighttolife.com/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-s-niece-reveals-she-was-almost-aborted-explains-her-commitment-to-the-civil-rights-of-the-preborn/

³³ https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/21/j-kenneth-blackwell-black-abortions-a-crisis-in-am/

³⁴ https://www.politifact.com/texas/statements/2018/mar/02/jason-isaac/jason-isaac-makes-mostly-false-claim-abortion-lead/

³⁵ https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2015/07/20/black-pastor-tells-naacp-abortion-is-racist-genocide/

³⁶ https://www.americanadoptions.com/pregnant/waiting_adoptive_families

³⁷ https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/21/health/ohio-de-ban-bn/index.html

³⁸ Ronan O'Rahilly and Fabiola Miller, Human Embryology and Teratology [3rd edition, New York: Wiley-Liss, 2001, p. 8]

³⁹ Considine, Douglas [ed.], Van Nostrand's Scientific Encyclopedia, 5th edition, New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1976, p. 943