🇺🇸 TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"

EVALUATING PLANNED PARENTHOOD: DON'T SCOFF AT A SINCERE FRAMEWORK OF MORALITY!

By Stephen L. Bakke 🇺🇸 July 28, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

A very credible and sincere medical ethicist wrote an article reminding us all of the many research advances that are possible as a result of fetal tissue research. That can't be denied, but he truly misses the point that many people are trying to make regarding the definition of life and how that relates to abortion and fetal research.

Here's my response:

Evaluating Planned Parenthood: Don't scoff at a sincere framework of morality!

Dr. Steven Miles provides a credible and sincere explanation of valuable results from "Fetal "Research" (Opinion Exchange, 7-28-15). I intuitively resist the idea of creating unnecessary roadblocks to aggressively seeking and discovering life-saving medical advances. But one statement by Dr. Miles demonstrates why he and I can't agree: "Opponents of abortion who are waging war on fetal research are also at war with improvements in prenatal care…"

Our country operates under a strong concept of "liberty" which ended up "at the top of the heap" in declaring a woman's legal prerogative regarding abortion services. Miles is misinterpreting, or ignoring, the motivation for many of us who are disturbed by the Planned Parenthood "scandal." We are compelled to superimpose a framework of morality on our personal evaluations of the recent disclosures. And this isn't just "finger-pointing moralism" (Bill Murchison's term).

For many "pro-choice" advocates, the research value Dr. Miles highlights outweighs the obviously gruesome parts of the process. They've made a conscious value judgment. Most of those who are bothered by abortion really understand the concept of a person's freedom to make choices in life. What's missing is that as people make judgments and choices, they should have the benefit of an exhaustive debate about an important question: "What's the definition of human life, and how should fetal tissue research activities relate to the answer?"