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## **PRO-LIFE AND PRO-CHOICE: THE LINE BETWEEN THEM ISN'T THAT FUZZY!**



By Steve Bakke  March 15, 2018

*Here's what provoked me:*

*I followed a recent "letter" debate in the Minneapolis StarTribune which included everything from "soup to nuts" on the interrelated topics of feminism, abortion, gender bigotry, etc. Read on, for what I found to be important considerations, but which had been ignored in the debate.*

*Here's my response:*

### **Pro-life and Pro-Choice: The Line Between Them Isn't That Fuzzy!**

A string of letters started on February 19 and continued through March 9. It debated such things as: What are the flaws in the feminist movement? Can feminists be pro-life and pro-male? What's the meaning of gender bigotry? But I consider the penultimate letter on March 8 to be the most interesting: *"Where there's common ground, and where there's consistency."*

The writer reflected on the debate and took a conciliatory tone in finding common ground between pro-life and pro-choice feminists. She's a self-described pro-life feminist who argues that "pro-life feminists and pro-choice feminists support a common agenda, perhaps 99% of the time." In defense of that position, she lists issues and policies that can be agreed upon. I agree with her list but she gives short shrift to a couple of important questions and ignores a compelling measurement.

I must ask: If someone is truly "pro-life," can that person be comfortable with someone else's choice to have an abortion? How does the "sanctity of human life" question factor into this writer's argument? And even with her valid list of "common ground" items, it seems to shrink after factoring in the 60,000,000 elective abortions since *Roe v. Wade*.

I've often wondered where the "choose-life" category fit in the pro-life/pro-choice continuum. I think I found out. It fits with neither extreme. It seems to be a "straddle" on the abortion issue. The border between "pro-life and pro-choice" just isn't as "fuzzy" as this well-intentioned writer would like it to be.