Making a More Pro-Life Canada

Scholarship Essay

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"Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.
If you say, 'But we knew nothing about this,'
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who guards your life know it?
Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?"

Proverbs 24:11–12 (NIV)

Proverbs 24:11–12 calls believers to act against injustice and defend those who cannot defend themselves. If you are a follower of Christ, you bear His name and are called to represent His character. Throughout Scripture, God demonstrates care and compassion for those who are vulnerable. Few are more vulnerable than a baby growing in the womb, completely dependent on others for protection. Yet abortion remains legal in Canada, and more than 100,000 abortions were reported in Canada in 2024 alone (Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada). This must change. If Canadians are informed about the truth of abortion, we can begin to question the assumptions and beliefs surrounding it. We must recognize the incredible miracle of human life and be willing to speak about its value with those around us. Churches must also refuse to remain silent by educating their congregations, supporting women facing unplanned pregnancies, and sharing the hope of the gospel with those who have experienced abortion. Canada can become more pro-life when Canadians learn the truth about abortion, recognize and speak openly about the inherent value of unborn life, and when churches educate their congregations while providing compassionate support and gospel hope to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Abortion is often presented in Canadian society as a routine, simple, and safe medical procedure, but this language can obscure the realities of what abortion involves and the potential consequences for women. The Canadian Encyclopedia defines abortion as the "premature ending of a pregnancy" (Long),

while the Government of Canada describes it as a "legal and regulated medical procedure to terminate a pregnancy" (Public Health Agency of Canada). Although these definitions are technically accurate, they do not fully communicate that abortion intentionally ends the life of a developing human being through a violent medical procedure. Canadians should also understand that, unlike many other countries, Canada has no federal gestational limit on abortion, meaning that abortion can occur later in pregnancy under certain circumstances and depending on the provider (Government of Canada). Equally important is recognizing that the effects of abortion may extend beyond the physical procedure itself. While abortion is frequently framed as a straightforward choice, many women report experiencing significant emotional and psychological struggles afterward, including depression, anxiety, shame, isolation, nightmares, anger, and difficulty forming relationships (Hughes). As Laura Lynn Hughes cites, one study published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* found that psychiatric hospitalization rates were higher among women who had undergone abortions than among women who continued their pregnancies (Hughes 157). These realities deserve to be part of the conversation. If Canadians are going to have an honest discussion about abortion, they must look beyond language that portrays it as merely routine or uncomplicated and acknowledge both the deliberate ending of developing human life and the possible emotional consequences for women. Honest information can help women and families consider compassionate alternatives and support that protects both mother and child.

Some argue that an unborn child is nothing more than a "clump of cells" or compare the unborn child to a parasite because it is completely dependent on its mother for survival. However, the Christian understanding of human life begins with a very different truth: human beings are not defined by their size, stage of development, or level of dependence, but by the One who created them. This incredible design can even be seen in the complexity of human DNA. DNA contains the biological instructions necessary for the development and functioning of the human body, an intricate code that begins directing development from the earliest stages of life. Bill Gates once described DNA by saying, "DNA is like a

computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created" (Gates, Myhrvold, and Rinearson). The remarkable complexity and precision of this biological code points to the meticulous and careful work of a Creator. Canadians must be willing to speak boldly and openly about the value of unborn life, using truth and love to defend those who cannot speak for themselves. Genesis 1:27 declares, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Humans, different from the rest of creation, are made in the image of God. This concept of *Imago Dei*, meaning "image of God," means that every person has worth, meaning, and inherent value. Being an image bearer of God means that a person's life is purposeful and intentional from the time of conception until death. When we recognize that every human being is intentionally created in the image of God, the unborn child can no longer be viewed as merely a clump of cells or an unwanted burden. The child in the womb is a unique human life with inherent worth and dignity, deserving of protection regardless of age, size, development, or dependence. Recognizing this truth should compel Christians not only to value unborn life, but also to defend and protect it.

Because every human being bears the image of God, the destruction of innocent human life in the womb is an issue that the church cannot ignore. Churches have a responsibility to educate their congregations, support women facing unplanned pregnancies, and offer the hope of the gospel to those who have had or been affected by abortion. Yet the pulpit is often silent on this issue, and it is time for the body of Christ to take action. The topic of abortion has become taboo in many churches, often avoided to keep peace or prevent controversy. But what are we as a people who claim to follow the Lord if we remain silent while the lives of unborn children, who are image bearers of God, are being taken? John Piper argues that Christians cannot remain silent about abortion, stating, "I can't bring myself to lay it down as irrelevant or something we should be silent about" (Piper). The church should therefore boldly and lovingly educate its congregation about the value of unborn life and the realities of abortion. Furthermore, the church should actively support women who are facing unplanned pregnancies by offering practical

resources and a community of support. Often, these women may feel shame, fear, or a lack of support from those closest to them. The church should fill these gaps by coming alongside women through counsel, love, prayer, and practical assistance. These women are carrying new life, and they should be celebrated, valued, and supported, especially by the church. Finally, the church should boldly and lovingly present the good news of the gospel to those who have had an abortion or have been affected by one. The gospel is not reserved for a certain group of people; it is the message of God's grace and redemption offered to every person, regardless of their past. For those carrying grief, shame, or pain after an abortion, the gospel offers a hope that the world cannot provide. Through Jesus Christ, there is forgiveness, healing, and restoration. The greatest hope for those affected by abortion is not found in condemnation, but in the grace of Jesus Christ. The church must therefore become a place where truth is spoken, women are supported, and the hope of the gospel is proclaimed. If the church is willing to speak boldly, support sacrificially, and love faithfully, it can help create a culture where both mothers and their unborn children are valued and protected.

In conclusion, thousands of lives are lost each year to abortion in Canada, thousands of lives our world has been denied the opportunity to know. This cannot continue. Pro-life Canadians must be willing to educate themselves and then share the truth with their neighbours, coworkers, and family members who may be uncertain about abortion or support it. Armed with facts about what happens during an abortion and a firm understanding of the sanctity and value of human life, pro-life Canadians must have the courage to take a stand. The church, too, has a responsibility to speak clearly and compassionately about the value of every human life while offering support to women facing difficult pregnancies. When Canadians are willing to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves and stand alongside mothers in need, we can begin to protect vulnerable children and create a culture that values and supports both mother and child.

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