

It is in repentance, then, both in word and deed, that **cross** takes form today. In **2 Corinthians 7:8-12**, we see that great difference that exists between godly sorrow, which brings repentance, and worldly sorrow which brings death. Worldly sorrow brought death twice in Pensacola, a shooting in Wichita, a bombing in Birmingham, two deaths in Brookline, and a murder in Buffalo. Godly sorrow, on the other hand, brings repentance that leaves no regret, and produces an eagerness to see justice done.

Had thousands of Christians been in active repentance at abortion mills in Pensacola, Wichita, Birmingham, Brookline, and Buffalo by laying their lives down, a shot never would have been fired. The Church of Jesus Christ is God's answer to the abortion holocaust that is savaging our nation. The gates of hell will forever prevail against the President, the Congress, the Supreme Court, and those who murder abortionists, but they will never prevail against God's prevailing Church. That is God's way, not ours.

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It is Jesus who is the great threat to the devil. He cannot be compromised. He cannot be subdued. He cannot be dissuaded. He cannot be overcome. It is as we allow His life to become alive in us that the stronghold of Satan's child-killing industry will be utterly destroyed. His way is the way of the cross.

Operation Rescue will continue to live out the Gospel in the streets. **This will never change!** Jesus physically intervened on our behalf and our call is to physically intervene on behalf of others. Operation Rescue is a movement birthed in repentance and sustained by grace. While the responsibility of others may be to seek to make abortion illegal, our biblical mandate is to confront God's Church and our nation with the sin, the immorality, and the horror of abortion.

This is our cross. We will carry it to the streets. We will carry it to the Church. We will carry it to the clinics. We will carry it to the hospitals that give sanctuary to child killers. We will continue to follow **the way of**

the cross and the example of our Lord Jesus Christ as we rescue those being led away to slaughter. We hold so tightly to **the cross of Christ** that there is no room for any other weapon.

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**Why We Don't Shoot Abortionists
Or Blow Up Abortion Mills
The Way of the Cross: No Cheap Solutions**

God's Economy—The Ends Do Not Justify the Means

Operation Rescue unashamedly takes up the cause of pre-born children in the name of Jesus Christ. We employ only biblical principles. The Bible is our foundation; **the Cross of Christ** is our strategy; the repentance of the Church of Jesus Christ is our ultimate goal. As the Church changes her heart toward unborn children, God Himself will hear from heaven, forgive our sin, and bring healing to our land.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only answer to the abortion holocaust. It is upon our active repentance at abortion mills, abortionists' homes, churches, and practices that the Gospel is visibly lived out. We become to the Church, to our city, and to our nation **living parables**, which rightly represent God's heart toward pre-born children.

Where do those who blow up abortion mills, shoot abortionists, and resort to "the ends justify the means" philosophy to end abortion come from? They come from a church not willing to defend the defenseless, thus opening the door to vigilantism. They come from a culture in which the value of human life is cheapened. They come from the pain and aftermath of abortion. They come from a political system that imposes greater penalties for sitting in front of an abortion clinic door than for dealing drugs or for theft. They come from the frustration of knowing that children are dying and being helpless to do anything about it. They come from a sincere compassion for innocent children in the womb. **Their sincerity, however, does not justify their actions.**

Whether or not their motives are pure is impossible to discern, but this we know: **Two wrongs never make a right!** Vigilantism invariably brings with it lawlessness. One never has the right to take upon himself the roles of judge, jury, and executioner.

God's answer to the abortion holocaust in America is in the repentance of His Church, not in the extermination of an individual abortionist, or in the extermination of all abortionists. His answer is not in the destruction of a solitary clinic or the destruction of every clinic. His answer is in the changed heart of His Church.

As the heart of His Church is changed, the heart of our nation will be changed. And, as the heart of our nation is changed, our laws will reflect that change.

It is imperative for us to theologically think through the means by which the Church of Jesus Christ is to rescue children being led away to slaughter. **The ends never justify the means in God's economy.** He is looking for us to walk with Him by faith. He is more concerned with the means we use than the ends we achieve, for He is looking for us to trust Him, rather than rely on our own cunning.

The Scripture is replete with examples of godly men and women who thought their way would be more expedient than God's way: Abram and Sarai's self-help program with Hagar, **Genesis 16**; Moses' identification with his Israelite brothers and sisters and his ensuing murder of an Egyptian, **Exodus 2:11-15**; Moses smiting the rock twice rather than speaking to it, **Numbers 20:7-15**; David putting the ark of God on a cart rather than having the priests carry it on poles, **2 Samuel 6:1-8**; and Peter not wanting Jesus to go the cross in Jerusalem, **Mark 8:27-33**. **"There is a way that seems right to a man but the end thereof is death."** **Proverbs 14:12**. When man does things his way rather than God's way, he becomes an **enemy of the cross**. Severe consequences and death are the inevitable result.

In each of these cases there was a way that seemed right but totally missed the plan and purpose of God. God patiently, purposefully, and painfully brought His children to His way. Though well intentioned and with great zeal for our Lord's work, these men and women actually became impediments to our Father's providential hand. They did it their way! In doing so they became **enemies of the cross**.

Those who commit themselves to "justifiable homicide," the premeditated murder of an abortionist, are working in absolute contradiction to God's express purpose. They may feel they exude more courage and commitment to our pre-born brothers and sisters, but their way is not God's way!

"It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor be hasty and miss the way." **Pr 19:2**. God's way is **the way of the cross!** Everything in the Old Testament

is preparation for and points toward the fact that **the cross** would be the means by which men shall be saved. Everything in the New Testament shows that Jesus, on **the cross**, fulfilled all that was necessary for man to enter into the presence of Almighty God. **The cross** was God's way to bring man to Himself.

Any attempt to accomplish His purpose apart from **the cross**, however sincere, is doomed to frustration and failure. It may initially appear fruitful (the enemy is good at this), but in the end, it brings heartbreak and death.

Peter thought he could protect Jesus from going to **the cross**. In doing so, Peter became an **enemy of the cross**. He found himself working in opposition to Father's will. **"...You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."** **Mark 8:33**.

Peter loved Jesus. He simply did not understand **the way of the cross**. His way seemed right, but it denied **the cross**. One cannot doubt the courage of this disciple. He was willing to fight and die for his Lord, yet his way was not God's way. No, God's way is **the cross**. **The cross** was waiting for Jesus at Calvary. **That same cross** is waiting for you and me.

Peter, after much testing and fire, came to know **the way of our Lord's cross**. When he came to an end of himself, God was able to bring Peter to his true destiny. He picked up **his cross** and carried it until it finally killed him when he was crucified upside down. The way of the cross enabled Peter to lay his own life down that others might live. This is God's way.

Is our way the way of the cross?

In our exuberance to bring an end to abortion, do we become **enemies of the cross**? Certainly, **the cross** does not appear to be the most expedient way to defend the lives of little boys and girls waiting to be born, but it is, nevertheless, God's way!

The call for God's people to repent has never changed (2 Chronicles 7:14). It is only as the heart of our Great Redeemer is turned toward His people will His hand be loosed to bring healing to our land. We are helpless to fix the problem.