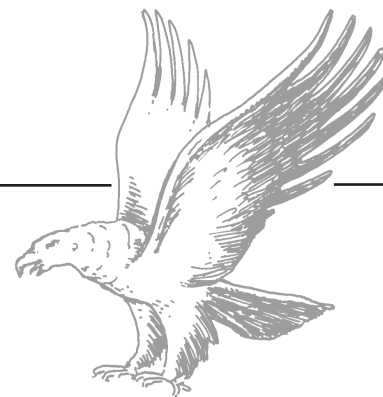


Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



September 4, 2016

We're All Pro-Choice

It's unfortunate that one side in the abortion debate has co-opted this label, because in reality, all of us are free to make all kinds of choices in our lives. There is only one thing we can't choose.

“I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deut. 30:19).

“When I spoke, you did not hear, but did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight” (Isa. 65:12).



In the early years of the abortion debate, the proponents of abortion-on-demand adopted the “pro-choice” label to identify their position. It was a clever way to portray themselves as the champions of individual liberty, while obscuring the fact that innocent human life is being sacrificed. That label highlights what is (in their view) the greater value of women being free to make their own decisions about their bodies.

While I abhor abortion and the deliberate obfuscation of the “pro-choice” label, I have to acknowledge one undeniable truth: regardless of what we believe about abortion, all of us are, in a sense, pro-choice. That is, every one of us has a choice as to how we will live our lives, and that choice is ours alone to make. Every day we are confronted by

hundreds of little decisions, and the choices we make influence the grand trajectory of our lives. We are not pawns in a cosmic chess game whose moves are determined by fate. Neither are we animals driven by instinct. We have the ability to evaluate the options that lie before us, and to choose which one we will take.

For example, *we are free to choose whether or not to believe in and honor God.* He has provided evidence for His existence in the natural world around us, but He has also left a number of open questions that afford the skeptic a loophole for rejecting the evidence. It falls on us to decide what the preponderance of data proves, and live our lives accordingly. And make no mistake about it: what we choose to believe on that important subject will have a profound impact on many other life decisions.

Likewise, *we are free to choose whether we will live our lives for the benefit of others or to enrich ourselves.* The world needs more people who are willing to inconvenience themselves in service to others. But our natural—and

more powerful—inclination is selfishness. Which to choose? It's our call.

We are also free to choose how we will respond to adversity. Philosophers and theologians wrestle with the cosmic question of *why* suffering exists, but for most of us that speculation is idle chatter. Life often hurts, and we're stuck with it. We can allow the pain to make us bitter and angry, or we can train our minds to bear the pain with a spirit of grateful optimism. No one can make that choice for us; we have to do it ourselves.

In all these areas, God has left us free to choose our path. But there is one thing we are not free to choose: the *consequences* of our decisions. The choices we make come pre-packaged with their own set of outcomes, and we cannot separate them out. Of course, we usually don't see the outcomes until it's too late, and once they hit, it's too late to reverse them. We made our choice and we have to live with the results.

Whether we like it or not, we're all pro-choice. The challenge is to develop a heart of wisdom that will lead us to make the *right* choices.

— David King