

Love Both Heartbeats

What does it mean to love both heartbeats? Love is not something you have no control over. Love is wanting what is best for the other person. The pro-life community often is accused of not caring about women, not wanting what is best for them, and only caring for the unborn. Planned Parenthood defines “pro-life” as simply meaning abortion should “be illegal and inaccessible.” The Oxford dictionary defines “pro-life” as “opposing abortion.” While it is true that the pro-life community opposes abortion, advocates also care for more than just the unborn. Pro-life is loving both heartbeats. Loving both heartbeats means not only desiring life and what is best for the unborn but also desiring what is best for the expectant mom.

Here is a real story, names changed for privacy: One day my mom received a call from her friend, Melissa. Melissa worked in a homeless shelter and was calling about a young woman, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was facing an unplanned pregnancy and wanted to explore her options. She was willing to visit our local pregnancy resource center. Melissa knew Elizabeth needed a friend. My mom loaded us up in the car and explained on the drive that we needed to pray for the mom while we waited in the car. While my mom waited with Elizabeth for the pregnancy center to open, I could overhear parts of their conversation. Elizabeth immediately stated adoption was not an option for her and explained she wants to be a mom but she’s unemployed and homeless. The shelter she was staying at made an appointment at a local clinic the next county over. The shelter was willing to arrange transportation. Elizabeth really did not want to go to that appointment but felt she had no choice. She felt the shelter would not allow her to stay if she was pregnant. Through tears she shared about a previous abortion and how she knew it was murder. I remember my mom asking Elizabeth to just wait until she spoke with an advocate at the pregnancy center and my mom promised to make calls about local resources. My mom and Melissa pointed out

there were so many resources and Elizabeth was not alone. Within twenty-four hours my mom and Melissa connected Elizabeth with food banks, the unemployment office, WIC, and so much more. Unfortunately, when the shelter learned Elizabeth would not be going to her termination appointment, they pressured her to reconsider. They eventually kicked her out and tried to stop any other government agencies from helping. Before Elizabeth could be placed in a new shelter and setup with new resources, it was a small group of pro-life women that helped Elizabeth, that loved her and her unborn baby, that loved both heartbeats. The government agencies that were put in place to help all people in need failed Elizabeth.

Pregnant women deserve more than the “choice” to end their child’s life. Loving both heartbeats goes beyond loving the heartbeat in the womb but also to the woman carrying that heartbeat. Pro-life pregnancy centers across the United States provide goods and services including free ultrasounds and free pregnancy tests not just to preserve the life, the heartbeat, of the unborn, but also to offer mothers, and fathers, love and kindness as well. These same organizations often have parenting classes and not to mention free diapers, formula, baby clothes, and other miscellaneous baby items. This is a fact that needs to be shared every time the pro-life community is accused of not caring.

Love is a choice. Love is wanting what is best for the other person. The best thing for any of us is a culture of life, where the dignity of the most vulnerable are protected under the law. What does it mean to love both heartbeats? Loving both heartbeats means being pro-life.