

## ***Choices: We Each Have A Responsibility To THINK***

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Clancey and Benton were talking together in Benton's office, when a desperate call for help was heard from the next office over. Benton said to Clancey, "Go ask that lady if she's OK." Clancey stepped out in the hall closer to the office of the lady in distress and called, "Are you OK?" "No," she responded. Clancey returned to Benton's office. "What did she say?" asked Benton. "She said she wasn't OK," answered Clancey. "Well don't just leave it at that!" Benton exclaimed, "Go ask her what's wrong!" Clancey returned to the hall and called, "What's wrong?" No answer. He came back to Benton, who again asked what the lady's answer was. "She didn't say anything," Clancey answered.

What do you think about Clancey? Did he demonstrate any initiative or ability to think and reason on his own? Did he apply any logic to the decisions he made? It seems as though he could only think as far as what he was told, without making any logical assumptions, practical decisions, or common-sense conclusions of his own.

We all think Clancey is very foolish, don't we? But this is really just a little fictional story. The real problem is that we live in a society of many Clanceys (both male and female). Our society is filled with people who only think as far as what they're told. And to make this problem worse, a lot of the people telling everyone what to think are not concerned about saving life like Benton was.

So what I want to encourage you to do today is to think for yourself.

Now I'd just like you to consider this question:

How many of you are pro-life?

How many of you are pro-choice?

How many of you aren't sure where you stand on this issue?

It may surprise you when I tell you that I am pro-choice. Actually, I think all of us are. I believe that it is a person's choice what stores they are going to shop at, and where they are going to be employed. I believe it is a person's choice where they are going to live, what kind of a house they are going to live in, and what kind of vehicle they are going to drive. I believe it is a person's choice what kind of books they like reading, and what their hobbies are. I believe it is a person's choice whether they want to be married or want to remain single. I believe it is a person's choice whether or not they are going to attend church, and if they are, what church they are going to attend. We are all different, and we all make choices: many different choices. The little list I gave above is just a very small sample of the choices people have to make. There are many more, including the kind of food you like eating, who you pick for your friends, whether you enjoy physical exercise or not, etc. The list goes on and on. There is a line that is reached though where certain choices involve more

people than just ourselves, and when it comes to these kinds of choices, the choice is no longer just ours. If you are going out to eat with your best friend, you take into consideration what foods she likes too. If you like biking and dislike skating, and your cousin likes skating and dislikes biking, and you both like jogging, you will choose to go jogging together rather than biking or skating. These are simple little examples, but it gets deeper than this too. For instance, there are choices that are not mine to make because of the harm that they do to others. I should not choose to drive on the wrong side of the road, because doing so will result in a car crash which will harm or potentially take another's life. It's not up to me to decide that I'm going to do something that will be detrimental to someone else's life. Agree? So in this instance, I am not pro-choice. I recognize that there are boundaries when it comes to my choices, and that there are moral guidelines and limits that my choices are not allowed to cross over. If I get mad at my mother, I can't choose to steal her stuff. If I feel like someone is intruding on my private space, or feel like they are in some way messing my life up, I cannot choose to destroy them so that I won't have to deal with them anymore. Right? We all agree with that, don't we? We've all known people that we wish we'd never have to see again, but we should not eliminate them, should we? Why? Because that's not our choice. So yes, I'm pro-choice when it comes to choices that I can legitimately and morally make without stepping over the boundaries of regard for others' feelings, desires, and lives. On the other hand, when it comes to the issue of any choices that would harm another emotionally or physically or spiritually, I am not pro-choice.

You see, I think maybe we need to re-define the term "pro-choice". If anyone is really truly pro-choice, then that should mean that they take responsibility to weigh their choices carefully, to discern what is right and what is wrong, and to act accordingly. If someone allows everyone else (the media, peers, courts, presidents, etc.) to tell them what to think regarding morals, they are not really exercising the freedom of choice at all. So if someone tells you that you are free to choose to eliminate somebody for instance, your freedom of choice allows you to say, "I don't care what you're telling me I'm allowed to do. That isn't right, and I choose to do what is right." You have choices. I have choices. We don't want to be Clanceys. The Clanceys in this world wait for someone else to decide what they do and don't do, and thus they fail to intelligently make choices.

Let's think about another term that often comes to mind when the term "pro-choice" is used. This other term is "pro-life". I have explained to you what I believe about choice, and now I also want to definitely affirm that I am pro-life.

Yes, I am pro-life. While I believe it is up to each person to choose when it comes to situations that are relative to himself or herself, I also believe it is each person's responsibility to regard the feelings, preferences, ideals, and most importantly, lives, of others and to refrain from crossing over boundaries when making choices.

How many of you think it would be OK to run over a person with the car because he's in your way and you're in a hurry?

How many of you think it would be alright to poison one of your classmates because you're afraid he's getting too involved with your best friend?

How many of you think it's your choice to decide that someone who's mentally retarded does not deserve to live any longer?

How many of you would tell a mom to eliminate her six-month-old baby's existence because it's crying too loudly and continually keeping her awake at night?

If you don't believe that these things are right, your answers reveal that you are pro-life. You don't believe that it is your choice to decide that someone else has to die.

What about when it comes to life in the womb? Is it anyone's choice to decide that a living developing unborn baby who will one day become an adult has to die?

I want you to look at this beautiful photograph of a 10-week-old unborn baby and ask yourself whether unborn babies are real living people. At 10 weeks development, the baby's brain has already been growing for 5 weeks. The baby's heart has already been beating for 4 weeks. The baby has had fingers and toes for 3 weeks. The baby has been able to bend her knees and elbows for 2 weeks. The baby has had eyelids for 1 week.

I want each of you to look at this baby and think about what we have been talking about in regards to pro-choice and pro-life. When it comes to the life of a human being, what is your stance on pro-choice and pro-life?

I hope this article has been a blessing to you. If you would like to learn more about unborn babies and how you can stand for life, you can visit our website at [www.LoveTheUnbornBabies.name](http://www.LoveTheUnbornBabies.name). You can contact us over this website, or you can write to us at Post Office Box 7 ~ Shippensburg, Pennsylvania 17257 USA. I'd love to hear from you.



We can all complain about the problems and conditions our country is experiencing due to the many bad choices others have made in a multitude of areas. There is a quote though that says, "Be the change you want to see." When we see that change is needed, we can start with our own hearts and lives. I am glad that each of you are alive. I hope that you will use your lives to make choices that will have a positive impact on those around you and on those of the future.

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