

Celebrating Roe v. Wade being Overturned - With An Eye to Reality (Please Forward)

And Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate on two divided Opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him: but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word. (I Kings 18:21) [Translation? Quit trying to live your life in the middle.]



(Associate Pastor Tanner Ripley, Emmanuel Bible Church, Great Falls)

Resource Note:

- Dr. Ryan T. Anderson's new Book [Tearing Us Apart: How Abortion Harms Everything and Solves Nothing](#) Hear Ryan's helpful discussion at the Heritage Foundation [here](#)
- *How Congress is Driving America Off a Fiscal Cliff* (Attached)

A "Clarion Call" for the church and Pastors to teach on the issue of abortion:

The I Kings reference above ought to ring in the halls of the church - and your heart. **The time for playing church needs to end.**

The clock is ticking and the time is ripe. A recent Gallop pole indicates that only **56% of Evangelicals and 54% of Catholics believe that abortion is morally wrong.** This tells us of a **great opportunity to equip.**

In Europe, abortion is legal in 42 countries but in 39 of them, their restrictions on abortion are more restrictive than Mississippi's. Yet in Montana – after a court decision has remained unchallenged by Christians for 20 years – we are in worse shape than those 39 countries.

Silent no more, we must **teach** - (history, logic, scripture, reasoning, conclusions on one subject) - on abortion from the pulpits on Sunday morning. If your leaders refuse to do that... see my solutions later.

Rarely – almost never – do you hear a teaching on abortion. More on this in a moment.

But first, there is evidence that this can occur and be done with grace. Brian Shepherd, part of our Big Sky Worldview Forum, sent a LINK to his Associate Pastor, Tanner Ripley (pictured above) at Emmanuel Bible Church in Great Falls – June 5th, 2022 teaching on ***The Horror of Abortion and The Love of God***. The LINKS to the video and audio are below. **I recommend them to you** and ask that you forward this to friends and **particularly to your Pastor or Priest**. Video Link on our web site bigskyworldview.org under MEDIA <https://www.bigskyworldview.org/media>. The audio is also available from Emmanuel Bible Church, Great Falls <https://emmanuelbible.org/listen/current-series>

June 24th, 2022 was a great day in America and we should celebrate it. **But in Montana, we have much work to do.** Because of the interpretation of a case by our Supreme Court – as it stands now – abortion is essentially unchanged in Montana and we will **become a magnet**. Jeff Laszloffy from the Montana Family Foundation says this:

*“We must **amend** our state constitution, or nullify the Armstrong decision which is, in essence, Montana’s version of Roe v. Wade. Only then, will Montana’s smallest and most vulnerable citizens truly be safe.”*

I visited Saturday night with our Attorney General Austin Knudson – he considers **amending** our constitution a “heavy lift”- we probably don’t have the votes at the moment, maybe after the election? He added that **nullifying** the Armstrong decision with our present Montana Supreme Court is not likely.

Hence, the danger of Montana becoming a magnet for abortions even as we see multiple corporations lining up to **pay for all expenses** for their employees to travel to states where abortion is still allowed

A Needed Sea-Change in the Conservative Church!

This is going to require some intense, long-term engagement by a number of people who are committed to preserve LIFE in our state. The logical and Biblical institution to accomplish this **is the church**, but will it now respond? I will address that later.

But first, a look at the state of the battle fields.

The [Heritage Foundation](#) publishes a [State Protections for Unborn Children](#) document. Here we find a state-by-state rating for this protection - see the two screenshot pictures below. You can use this LINK to probe the issues:

Ratings **BEFORE** (listed as current) Roe v Wade was overturned were: Montana, and Wyoming rate POOR. The Dakota's and Iowa rate Moderate. Mississippi rates good and Oklahoma rates Excellent. The Supreme Court changed things – it got **better for some states** and **worse for Montana**.

The ratings now, **AFTER** Roe v Wade was overturned **are Montana is still POOR along with states like MI, IL, CA, NY** etc. **But now, ND, SD, WY, and ID** are rated **EXCELLENT** in terms of the states that have varying degrees of legal position against abortion. Minnesota, Colorado, Oregon etc. are rated **Terrible**.

Let's look a little closer at **Montana BEFORE**, this is what Heritage says:

BEFORE: *“POOR. Montana law protects unborn children [after](#) viability (when a child can survive outside the womb). per a 1999 state supreme court decision. The [law](#) includes a life-of-the-mother exception.”*

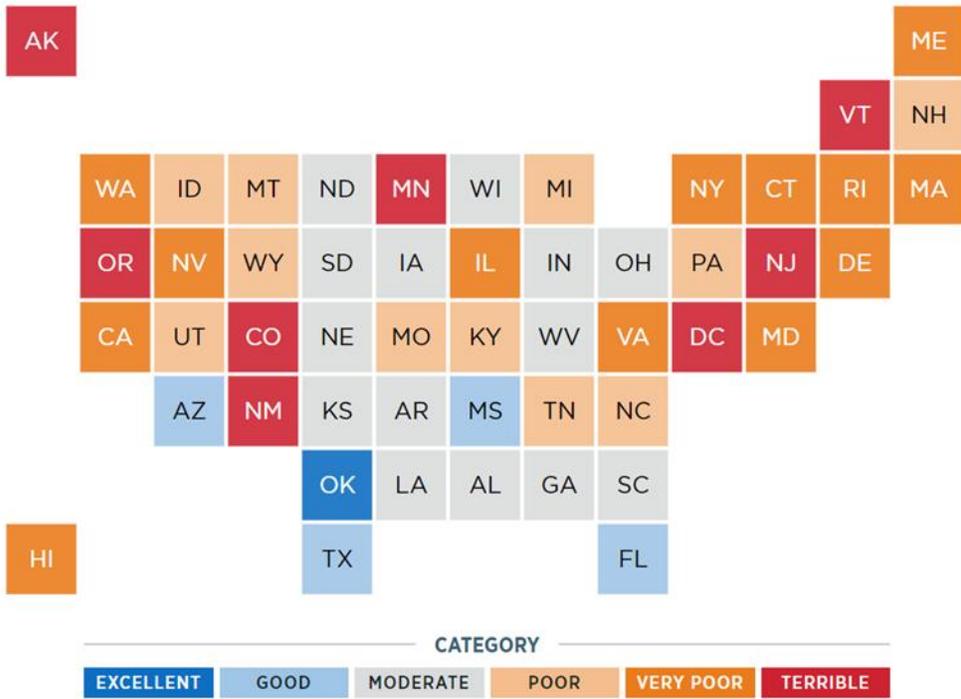
AFTER – *“Poor. Montana does not have an enforceable pre-Roe law or a conditional **law ready to spring into effect**. Several times, state courts have interpreted the state constitution as protecting abortion rights. Therefore, the legislature will still face hurdles to enact further gestational protections post-Roe.”*

You can use this LINK to see the more exact situation in our neighboring and other states.

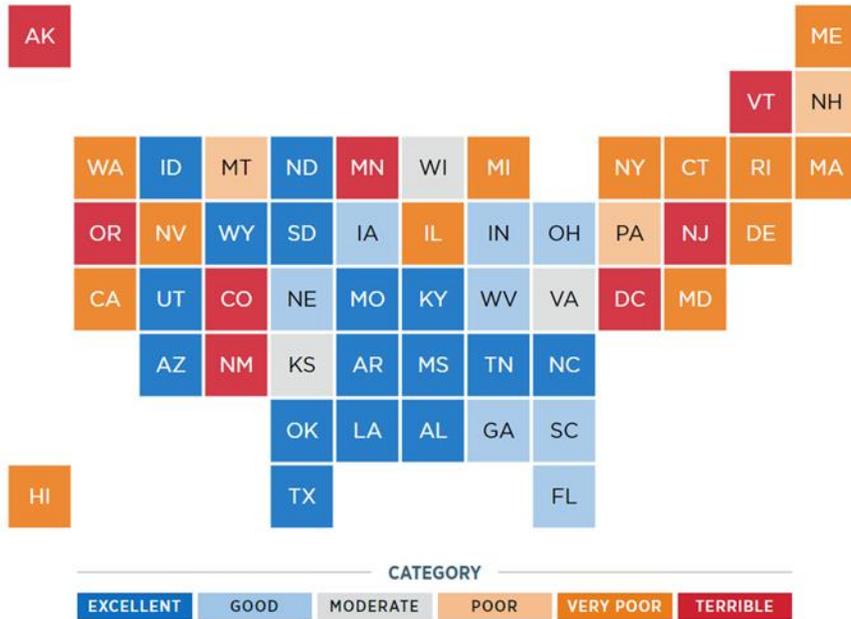
Montana - Digging a Little Deeper:

In a January filing by Attorneys General Austin Knudson, we read in part...

HELENA — In his court battle to save Montana's new abortion restrictions, Republican Attorney General Austin Knudsen is taking aim at a 22-year-old ruling that's become a legal pillar of abortion rights in Montana: The 1999 Armstrong decision.



CURRENT GESTATIONAL PROTECTIONS POST-ROE GESTATIONAL OUTLOOK



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In a filing last week asking the Montana Supreme Court to strike it down, Knudsen and his top attorneys said Armstrong was “wrong the day it was decided” and had “invented from whole cloth” a state constitutional right to abortion. (See after LINK above for more)

Current Landscape of the Battle Field: Our ***surrounding states*** – [North Dakota](#), [South Dakota](#), [Wyoming](#), and [Idaho](#). Are all rated EXCELLENT. That mean that abortions will likely be outlawed with perhaps certain stipulations. These state’s laws allow for abortion restrictions to spring into law from within 5 to 30 days. South Dakota has an exception for the life of the mother and Idaho adds rape and incest.

Probable Translation – a review? **Montana will become a magnet** for those seeking an abortion from out of state. Our surrounding states will all be more restrictive. Keep in mind that many **corporations** are already saying they will pay for their employees to fly to a state like Montana and have an abortion. Fox News is already talking about states advertising... “come our state on vacation and have your abortion while you’re there.” **Woohoo, an all-expense paid vacation - kill your baby and see the world. What the Hell will it take to make you speak up Christian church?**

Call to Action – Will the Conservative Church Now Teach on Cultural Issues like Abortion?

(Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint Prov. 29:18)

There is only one institution called to protect truth – it’s not the government, it’s not the corporations, it’s the church of God. There is only one institution that can **effectively equip people** with the truth about abortion and that is the conservative church.

Saturday evening, June 25th, [Steve Deace](#) with The Blaze TV spoke at the Republican Central Committee dinner. A few things he said are relevant here:

- ✚ His was a call to TRUTH – there are **two basic competing worldviews** – one will win and the **other will lose**. Jesus will win, but America may lose.
- ✚ What is **happening in the heavenlies** is being poured out in the **culture**. The clock is ticking, **can we discern the signs of the time** and do we know what to do (I Chronicles 12:3 2)– do we **have the will to do it?**

- ✚ The **worldview that wins** in America will be the one who's advocates **believe in their cause** and are willing to **fight** for it.
- ✚ The LEFT is willing to **fight for their RELIGION**, and we are not – we have let go of the rope.
- ✚ Then he said this - **We need to get a lot more confrontive – peacefully.**
- ✚ Why was there was so much bravery at the Alamo (Steve is from TX) because they realized **there was no back door, no way out so they had to fight**. This, we lack!
- ✚ Finally, he said, **what are YOU prepared to do?**

In the last 49 years, 63 million babies have been murdered. Pastor Ripley calls this **“modern day murder by genocide”** and he is spot on. Meanwhile, the church has been silent – I have searched for ones who TAUGHT (see my definition of teaching above) and what I have found is SILENCE.

Many of us believe that America is under the judgement of God largely because of this silence.

It is my stance that Ephesians 4:11 defines the **mission of the church** meeting. *“And Jesus gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists and some as pastor- teachers **for the equipping of the saints** to do the work of the ministry. “*

From this I conclude that **any given church is either an equipping center or – by default - a center for deception – there is no neutral ground.** (I Kings 18:21) Most of the teaching today is what my friend from Focus on the Family calls *“self-help dressed up with bible verses.”* Especially on the cultural issues, our churches are – by default – deceiving people by their silence. In [another document](#) I go into detail on twenty issues (see the appendix) No, not just abortion – the **silence has been on Evolution, the sexual revolution, No-Fault divorce, cohabitation, second wave feminism, ALL things LGBTQ, CRT...** shall I go on?

Rod Dreher, author of *Live Not by Lies* argues in a [recent article](#).

Our Pastors are ignoring reality, depending upon a winsome approach to the enemy in this cultural war. Far too many conservative pastors and lay leaders are desperately clinging to the false hope that we are still living in either Positive World or Neutral World, [when Christianity was respected

or at least tolerated] ***and that if they just keep calm and carry-on preaching and pastoring as if all was basically well, everything's going to calm down...Winsome World Christians are failing to prepare themselves, their families, and (if pastors) their flocks for the world that exists today, and the world that is fast coming into being.***

This is a moment of HUGE opportunity for the church to teach on Pro-Life issues. Those who still embrace abortion are at risk and this ideology tends to be deeply engrained. This will take a very focused time of equipping to change minds (Romans 12:1 being transformed by the renewing of our minds) Some will argue, *our people are already informed about abortion.* **But can they make the case** for life across the back yard fence with a neighbor and do it well?

So why the reticence to teach on abortion? In business terms it amounts to ***Bodies, Buildings, and Bucks.*** **The seeker friendly mentality that is** – I am sorry to say – now a part of the mentality of almost every church, stops leaders from offending seekers with TRUTH. Many church leaders **have created a monster.** For years they have not had the backbone to speak on cultural issues because they are controversial to the seekers. Now, they dare not speak truth or it will rear its ugly head and they will leave! Bari Weiss nails it in his article, [*We Got There Because of Cowardice. We Get Out with Courage*](#)

Yes, thank you Rick Warren, Bill Hybels (and the Willow Creek Association Churches), and many others who have foisted this compromise upon the body of Christ. Just last week [*The Federalist exposed Warren*](#) for his destruction of the Southern Baptist Convention and backing of Democrats. Much more need to be said.

But here we are, we must regroup and decide **which god** we are going to follow and advocate for.

What Then Should We Do?

Let me remind you, the reformers fought and died for the issue of “the *priesthood of all believers!*” We have been conditioned to set in the Pew and do nothing. ***Now, it is our turn and the clock is ticking...***

- ✚ **Talk to Your Pastor** – take him to lunch and make the case for him to teach on the issues of Pro-Life. Again, not just “talking to “the choir” in Sunday school,” but from the pulpit on Sunday morning.
- ✚ **Let him know your serious** – the time for silence has passed, **whose worldview is going to win** in your community?
- ✚ **Ask him to teach** on this in the **next MONTH**, no longer. Remember, the battle in Montana is urgent and we must be the ones that help legislators make the case for changing the constitution. **The Ground Swell from the church must reach the halls in Helena!**
- ✚ **What if he Refuses? Kindly** let him know that if he refuses, you are resolute that you will **no longer finance this silence**.
- ✚ **If nothing happens** in two months, begin looking for a fellowship that IS committed to equipping.

Remember this, WE THE PEOPLE are as guilty of this sin as any, we have financed it for 49 years.

With Resolution,

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