

## **“We agree with your goal but not your method.”**

Unfortunately we get this response from a lot from people in the faith and pro-life community. On the one hand, we are told that they are united in the common cause to end abortion, but on the other hand we are told that the methodology we use is both unnecessary and counter-productive. Does this criticism make any sense?

To begin, our goal at the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform Southwest is to make abortion unthinkable, and we would argue that in order to do that society must begin to come to grips with the horror of what abortion actually is; and this cannot be done rhetorically, but must be done primarily through the use of disturbing, graphic images. In other words, if abortion is to become truly unthinkable, we must begin to reveal what it truly is--the barbaric dismembering and torturing of innocent human beings. Historically, this very method was utilized by the great social reformer, Lewis Hine. With his camera, Hine documented the plight of working children in textile mills and coal mines at the turn of the 20th century. Hine understood, better than most in the pro-life community do, that a complacent society must see an injustice before it can change anything. Hine writes, “We propose to make you and the whole country so sick and tired of the whole business that when the time for action comes, child-labor pictures will be records of the past.”



‘Records of the past’

So again, when we hear from fellow Christians that our goal is good, but that our methodology is all wrong, we are left to naturally wonder whether they know what our goal truly is and what achieving that goal actually requires. Whatever other Christians' goals are in this battle, whether to help pregnant mothers through a crisis pregnancy or to lobby legislators, while noble and necessary, these goals are not the same as working to make abortion unthinkable in an ignorant and brainwashed society. Naturally, different ends require different means.

Should anyone in the pro-life community be working towards the goal of making abortion unthinkable? If so, then what methods and tactics should they employ to reach this goal in a secular community which sees the baby as merely an undifferentiated mass of tissue? Before our method is disparaged, please check to understand what our goal is. Doing this will help unite the pro-life community in the long run, and will destigmatize the use of graphic images.

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