

Support Her, Protect Them

The debate surrounding abortion is often displayed as an extreme, tragic conflict between a mother's life and her unborn child's life. This creates a toxic belief that compassion requires choosing one over the other. This narrative, while emotionally compelling, presents a horribly false dilemma. It assumes that protecting women and unborn children both are mutually exclusive goals. The reality is, a truly compassionate and Christian response to a crisis pregnancy recognizes the inherent value of both lives. The principle of supporting and loving the mother, while also striving to protect the children, challenges us to reject forced choices and instead pursue solutions that uphold dignity, respect, care, and most importantly, life, for all involved.

One of the most common arguments used to justify abortion is the claim that it is necessary to save the life of the mother. Most people assume that in extreme cases, when it comes down to the life of the mother or the life of the unborn child, the mother's takes top priority. At first glance, it seems obvious: after all, she is already here – living, breathing, and deeply connected to the world around her as a grown adult and functioning member of society. The child, however, is still unseen, unborn and easy to imagine as secondary. Why would you not choose her? The answer is simple: We do not have to choose one over the other. We can support her and protect them both.

Imagine: you are a young, expecting mother thrilled to welcome your first child. For the first few months, everything has gone smoothly, but around week 28, your doctor discovers something went very wrong with the pregnancy and insists that an immediate abortion is necessary to save your life. What now? Do not worry, there is another option. Studies show that most babies are viable around 22-23 weeks. This means that they can survive outside the

mother's womb with the support of modern technology and skilled medical professionals. There is a likely chance you can have an emergency C-section performed at this point as an intervention that will protect your life as well as give your child a fighting chance in a NICU where they can continue to grow until they are strong enough to go home. An important thing to understand is that in this hypothetical stage of pregnancy, a C-Section is not only faster than a late-term abortion, but also safer for the mother. In other words, the life-saving option for you is also the live-preserving option for your child.

Supporting her means walking beside women who face unplanned or difficult pregnancies with genuine compassion and practical help. So often, women do not seek abortion out of desire, but out of fear. Fear of financial instability, fear of judgment, fear of being alone, or fear that they simply cannot manage the weight of motherhood without support. Many feel cornered by circumstances they did not choose, pressured by partners, family members, or social expectations that leave them believing they have no real alternatives. True support offers alternatives: emotional care, medical assistance, financial aid, and community backing, so no woman feels that ending a pregnancy and killing the child is her only option. Support meaning affirming her strength and worth, not abandoning her to a choice made in desperation. Genuine care never asks a mother to choose which life matters more, rather, it gently surrounds her with the compassion and resources needed to safeguard both.

Protecting them means recognizing the unborn as vulnerable human lives who rely completely on the care and choices of others. From the moment they begin to exist, they are not potential humans but developing humans as distinct, unrepeatable individuals with their own DNA, trajectory, inherent dignity, and immortal soul. They cannot speak, vote, protest, or defend themselves. Their silence is precisely what makes them most in need of protection. A just and

compassionate society is measured by how it treats those who have the least power. We instinctively protect infants, the elderly, the disabled, and the marginalized because their vulnerability calls us to responsibility. The unborn belong in that same moral circle of concern. Their dependence is not a burden but a reminder of our shared humanity and of the truth that every person begins life needing the protection of others.

Ultimately, choosing to support mothers, while also striving to protect their children, we get invited to imagine a better world where fear is not the driving factor behind these decisions and where no woman feels abandoned to face crisis alone. It enables us to build systems of care that honor the mother's dignity while also safeguarding the life entrusted to her. When we refuse to accept the narrative that one life must be sacrificed for another, we open the door to solutions rooted in hope, solidarity, and moral clarity. By standing with women and defending their children, we affirm a culture that cherishes every human life and refuses to let despair have the final word. When faced with fear and uncertainty, the most humane response is not to decide whose life is worth more, but to commit ourselves to treasuring, protecting, and sustaining both lives as they are both infinitely valuable in the eyes of God.