

Real Justice Requires Real Love

The Dobbs v. Jackson case overturned Roe v. Wade.

Select quotes:

We therefore hold that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Roe and Casey must be overruled, and the authority to regulate abortion must be returned to the people and their elected representatives.

We end this opinion where we began. Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion. Roe and Casey arrogated that authority. We now overrule those decisions and return that authority to the people and their elected representatives . . . It is so ordered.

- [Proverbs 21:15](#) captures our national moment acutely: “When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.”

Romans 13:8–14 ESV

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- I want to chart a course for us today through the word of God to help us 1) see the debt we owe to our neighbors, and 2) find the strength to love without end.
- If families are going to matter at Rivertree, it will be because we recognize that each of us is a debtor to love but we have an endless supply of love in the Lord Jesus.

We owe a debt of love to unborn human beings, unprepared or unwilling mothers & fathers, non-believing fellow citizens.

- If you try to love out of your own strength, you will run out of love. You will begin to show partiality, deference, play favorites, and worse: you start to say that some people aren't your neighbor.
- But when your life has been crucified so that it is no longer you who live but Christ who lives in you, you boldly and shamelessly give people love.

We owe a debt of love to our unborn neighbors

1. *God is the author of gestation.*
2. *God knows every child in the womb.*
3. *God hates death.*
4. *God loves building families.*

We owe a debt to unprepared or unwilling mothers and fathers

- If the baby is our neighbor, then so is the mother and father of that baby. I think our debt to mothers and fathers goes two ways. First, as to the law, to teach and instruct in the way of righteousness. Second, as to the law, to meet their needs.
- The very brilliant Susanna Black Roberts noted that "Roe must be overturned, because the law is a teacher." Indeed. [Gal 3:24](#) "So then, the law was our guardian (παιδαγωγός/*paidagōgos*)---our tutor---until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith." If a good law is a good tutor, then an evil law will be an evil tutor.

Psalm 19:10–11 ESV

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,

even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey

and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

- Love is not mere sentiment or acceptance. And love is not divorced from speaking truth. We owe our neighbors a debt to save them the guilt and penalty for murder. Failing to do so ensures no wrong is done to them ([Romans 13:10](#)).

- This is not only an act of love for the unborn but the unwitting parents who we can save from guilt and regret.
- In this regard, overturning Roe is not the end but the beginning.

Our task as a church now is to teach people that babies who now *get* to live also *deserve* to live.

Meet Their Needs

- Just as love is not mere sentiment or acceptance nor divorced from speaking truth, love is not divorced from action. And if we owe a debt of love towards these parents, then we owe them a debt of action.

James 2:14–17 ESV

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- These babies being born are not just theory---they will need diapers, clothing, cribs, formula or lactation support.
- Paying for these things, as James says “giving them the things needed for the body,” will cost us vacations, second or third vehicles, but mostly our time, energy, and talents. We will have to be available for people.

Our task as a church now is to teach people that moms and dads who now *get* to be parents also *can be* capable parents.

We owe a debt to non-believing fellow citizens.

- [Romans 13](#) clearly teaches that God gifts government to humanity as a means of restraining evil. Love demands that we seek to outlaw any action which breaks God’s commandment and multiplies even nonbelievers sin.
- It is true that you cannot legislate morality or use the political process to change hearts. Only the gospel can do that. But, you and I have a debt of love towards our neighbor to restrain the sin which hardens their heart towards God.
- Abortion was widespread in the pagan world---it is not a modern innovation. Babies would either be killed by poison; or they would be born and abandoned. It was the Christian church which put an end to this barbaric practice.
- Both Justin and Tertullian tell us that Christians took shifts at landfills to watch for their Roman neighbors tossing their babies out. That witness won over the Empire. It was the Christians who first said that children were people, established orphanages throughout the Mediterranean region, and into the Middle Ages, ensured that the law protected vulnerable infants.

We need strength from Jesus to love without end.

- We will not pay our obligation of love while asleep. Paul's emphasis in this text is that if the return of Christ really is going to happen then we cannot be as if we are asleep on the job. But, of course, Paul and we believe Jesus is returning very soon...our posture must indicate we believe this.
- If we put all of this in another way, Christ's light in this world is seen when we Christians clothe ourselves in his character in an everyday resistance to evil.

Two things are in view here:

1. We won't live in the light unless we first recognize that Jesus Christ is not just a great teacher but the Lord.
2. We won't live in the light unless we allow the Lord Jesus, who is the one appointed, to cleanse of our sins.

If you have not done that today, will you? Throw yourself on the mercy of Jesus. This is what it means to put on Jesus. All of us need to do this.

Again, if you try to love out of your own strength, you will run out of love. You will begin to show partiality, deference, play favorites, and worse: you start to say that some people aren't your neighbor.

But when your live has been crucified so that it is no longer you who live but Christ who lives in you, you boldly and shamelessly give people love.