

Loveland Reporter

Herald

August 24, 02

God's laws transcend all laws enacted by mankind

To the editor:

Once again, Julie Maslowski has taken my letter out of context and misquoted what I had stated in the Open Forum. Is this a ploy to mislead and deceive the readers?

I did not state that abusing priests "simply" made a mistake and the hierarchy "merely" mishandled the priests' criminal behavior. The words "simply" and "merely" were chosen by Maslowski. I never trivialized what they had done. I did state, "The leaders of the Catholic Church mishandled (handled badly, wrongly, etc.) the abuse perpetrated by some priests by not reporting the incident to the proper authorities." They did handle the abuse shamefully. I stated further, "so the priests would be punished to

the full extent of the law." If anything, my statements admonished the hierarchy and the offending, abusive priests. Also, I stated the church leaders and followers sin and make mistakes, as do all people. I was speaking of sinners in general. There was no mention of the abusing priests in this statement as "simply" making a mistake. Furthermore, since when are the leaders of the Catholic Church not accorded the same rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States to all other citizens? They have the right to freedom of speech and expressing their opposition to abortion just as you who are pro-abortion express your views.

I must clarify my statement concerning sinners. In order to be forgiven for our sins by God, we must do the following: Ask for forgiveness (from victim and God), right the wrong and don't repeat the sin. I did not say the abusive priests followed these requirements. Only God knows what's in their hearts and minds and can forgive them accordingly.

Loonan and Maslowski haven't proven God agrees with their support of abortion. However, God's commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" proves abortion is wrong. Or, don't God's laws count anymore? Why would God find it acceptable for you to destroy the very life he starts for procreation? What Loonan and Maslowski consider evidence that a woman's life is more important than that of their unborn child is nothing more than misinterpreted biblical Scripture to fit their own desires. Others proved they have misinterpreted Scriptures for their so-called evidence in prior letters to the Open Forum.

The proof I offer is "Thou shalt not kill," which I have stated over and over again. God's laws transcend all civil laws enacted by man, including those of the United States Supreme Court. Also, human life takes precedence over all political issues. Perhaps it is time for theologians of all religions to join this debate and give us the benefit of their expertise.

Erika Bruning
Loveland

Lowland Reporter Herald 9/23/02

Bible verses offer no real stance against abortion

To the editor:

On March 30, Life and Liberty for Women wrote in this newspaper concerning God's belief about what the relationship between a born woman and her fetus is, evidencing from biblical Scripture; Genesis 2:7 and Exodus 21: 22-25, that God wouldn't have condemned Roe v. Wade.

Erika Bruning didn't tell the truth in her Aug. 24 letter, when she said our evidence is nothing more than misinterpretation of biblical Scripture. Bruning hasn't disproved our evidence with evidence of her own, and she's wrong — neither has anyone else. Go to "They Said We Say" on our Web site and read the debate on these verses that occurred in this newspaper last April and May.

Bruning has referenced "Thou shalt not kill" in Matthew 19 before, including in an Aug. 15, 2001 letter. On Aug. 26 I evidenced how it doesn't apply to abortion. Bruning never responded.

Matthew 19:18 doesn't prove abortion is wrong or murder. Dr. Roy Bowen Ward, professor of religion at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, said no direct object is supplied for the verb to kill in that verse and the commandment doesn't indiscriminately refer to killing anything alive. Ward said the Israelites were expected to kill Philistine enemies in war, making the command to kill not pro-life in an unqualified way. If anti-abor-

tion extremists can pluck that verse out of the Bible and indiscriminately apply it to abortion, then it can be indiscriminately applied to war and the death penalty.

Yet, anti-abortion extremists claim "Thou shalt not kill" can't be applied to the death penalty or war because in other verses God condoned such killing. That being true, Matthew 19 must be linked to other biblical verses to decipher God's meaning. If other biblical verses make the case that the death penalty and war are exceptions to this commandment, where's the biblical verses that make the case that abortion is either an exception to, or is included in this commandment?

Verses making the case that legal abortion, under the guidelines of Roe v. Wade, is also an exception to the command "Thou shalt not kill," is in Genesis 2 and Exodus 21.

"Wrongly" doesn't appear in the dictionary definition of the word "mishandle" as Bruning insinuates. Words like "mistake," "mishandle" and "admonish" instead of "crime," "conspiracy" and "prison" trivialize and minimize the crime of sexual abuse by Catholic priests and the criminal conspiratorial actions of the hierarchy. I used the words merely and simply to accentuate that point.

Finally, no one's constitutional right to freedom of speech is being challenged here. The question is whether the Catholic Church any longer possesses the moral authority to speak

against legal abortion. They don't.

Julie Maslowski,
board member
Life and Liberty for Women
Milliken