



Why Pro- Life?

caring for the
unborn and
their mothers

Revised and Updated

RANDY ALCORN

“Randy Alcorn’s concise but comprehensive presentation of the pro-life position is an invaluable resource for openhearted—yet often tongue-tied—pro-lifers everywhere.”

—**Frederica Mathewes-Green**

Columnist, commentator, and author of *Real Choices: Listening to Women, Looking for Alternatives to Abortion*

“This compelling volume shatters stereotypes, and it will help heal the wounds of America’s most urgent internal conflict.”

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—**Andy Stanley**

North Point Community Church

“To change our culture, it is not enough to say that we are pro-life; we must explain why we are pro-life. This book is an excellent resource that does precisely that.”

—**Fr. Frank Pavone**

National Director, Priests for Life
President, National Pro-life Religious Council

“*Why Pro-Life?* is an invaluable resource for anyone trying to help a friend or family member understand the pro-life perspective. With clear, compelling language, Randy Alcorn lays out the case for life, using the power of both reason and emotion.”

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Founder, Prison Fellowship

“A well-thought-out and thorough analysis of why protecting all human life is not only the right position but the only position we as a society should support. I believe minds will be changed after reading this book.”

—**Kristen Day**

“All the proof anyone could need. Condensed into this tiny book are compelling answers to the most common pro-choice arguments. Randy Alcorn offers a powerful reminder that all created beings are deserving of dignity, freedom, and equal rights. I believe this book has the capacity to open the eyes and change the hearts of millions. A powerful book that you will want to give to everyone you know.”

—**Nancy Stafford**

Actress and author of *The Wonder of His Love*
and *Beauty by the Book*

Executive Director, Democrats for Life of America

“A comprehensive, well-documented, and compelling book, particularly as it relates to our babies at risk.”

—**Jennifer O’Neill**

Actress, author, and spokesperson for
Silent No More Awareness Campaign

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS

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Tell Me about Heaven

Wait until Then

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To Audrey Stout,
who cares for the unborn and their mothers,
and who cared for my mother when she was
dying of cancer in 1981.
Your acts of kindness will not be forgotten
by the God who rewards every cup of
cold water given in His name.

THANKS . . .

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Author's Introduction to the Revised Edition

Why Pro-Life? was first published in 2004. With three hundred thousand English copies in print, and translations in eighteen other languages, I have been amazed at its far-reaching impact. We have heard many heart-warming stories about lives touched by the book.

But technology changes, statistics become dated, and new resources, stories, and discussions arise. It was time for a thorough update and revision.

As I write this in 2012, with the help of others—in particular, research assistant Cathy Ramey—I have gone over every sentence in the book, revising and updating. Hardly a paragraph of the original has remained unedited, and much new material has been added.

I am pleased to say that although I believe the original was a good book, the expanded and updated version is a better one. Those who read the original will find much more to think about and to use.

May this new book serve to further in greater ways the purposes for which it was originally written.

Randy Alcorn

Section I

THE BASICS

Why Talk About Abortion?

Years ago a representative of what was then called the National Abortion Rights Action League spoke in a nearby public high school class on the merits of abortion. A student asked the teacher if I could come to present the pro-life position. When I arrived a week later, the pro-choice instructor informed me that his students had voted twenty-three to one for the pro-choice position.

I presented the case for the humanity and rights of unborn children. I showed intrauterine photographs demonstrating the development of the unborn at the earliest stages when abortions are performed. (This is far easier today when ultrasounds so graphically demonstrate what for decades—when there was no window to the womb—pro-choice advocates denied.)

After class, the teacher said to me, “If we were to vote again, the outcome would be different. Minds were changed.” Then he added something remarkable, with some sadness in his eyes: “You know, until today I’d never heard the pro-life position.”

Our schools pride themselves on being open-minded and providing a fair and fact-oriented education. Yet here was a fifty-five-year-old social science teacher with a master’s degree who’d *never heard the pro-life position*. He had adopted the pro-choice position without scrutiny, and his students had done the same—until they saw and heard the truth.

The Surprising Trend

Not long ago, young people seemed so immersed in moral relativism and tolerance-driven postmodern culture, it appeared they

would eventually become uniformly pro-choice. But something happened. Now, surprisingly, more young people than their parents oppose abortion.

A 2003 Gallup survey of teenagers found that 72 percent believed abortion was morally wrong. Only 19 percent believed abortion should be legal in all circumstances, compared to 26 percent of adults. About 32 percent of teens, compared to 17 percent of adults, thought abortion should never be permitted.¹

This was confirmed by a subsequent national poll, and evidenced by larger numbers of teenagers participating in the national March for Life. By 2010, Gallup updated their survey with the headline “The New Normal on Abortion: Americans More ‘Pro-Life,’”² and in 2011 their polling revealed that by a 24 percent margin (61 to 37) Americans want most or all of abortions to be illegal.³

Youth webzines such as *The Advocate*⁴ and youth-activist organizations have reported a sharp rise in teen/young adult opposition to abortion.⁵ They have also been very instrumental in informing the general public about the dangers associated with abortion.⁶ Contemporary websites reach out to young women, encouraging them to choose life.⁷ Many young people are refusing to accept their culture’s defense of abortion.

In *Why Pro-Life?* I’ll present factual and compassionate reasons that explain and validate this movement away from the so-called pro-choice stance to a pro-life perspective.

The Defining Issue of Our Age

Abortion is America’s most frequently performed surgery on women. The Guttmacher Institute, a polling agency for the abortion industry, reports that four out of every ten pregnancies are ended by abortion.⁸ There are about 1.21 million reported abortions in the United States every year, down about 8 percent since 2000.⁹

Virtually every family, at some level, has been touched by abortion.

The stakes in this issue are extraordinarily high. If the pro-choice position is correct, the freedom to choose abortion is a basic

civil right. If the pro-life position is correct, human casualties from the 3,315 surgical abortions occurring in America (not even counting chemical abortions, some of them from contraceptives) *every day* total more than all lives lost in the September 11, 2001, destruction of the World Trade Center.

A recent Gallup poll indicated 27 percent of Americans say they are very strongly pro-choice, while 22 percent say they are very strongly pro-life. Taken together, that means 49 percent of Americans hold a strong view on abortion, either for or against.¹⁰ The other 51 percent are not as firm in their opinions. However, even these “uncertain” mostly believe that “abortion is morally wrong” and 39 percent of them favor restrictions in all but a select few circumstances. Hence, the majority of Americans still value life and can still be influenced in their thinking about abortion.

A Christian Perspective

Some Christian readers may think, “This book isn’t for us—we don’t have abortions, un-churched people do.” In fact, 43 percent of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27 percent identify themselves as Catholic. So two-thirds of America’s abortions are obtained by those with a Christian affiliation. One of every five US abortions—about a quarter-million a year—are performed on women who identify themselves as born-again or evangelical Christians.¹¹

Many church-attending women, younger and older, have had abortions. Many church-attending men got those women pregnant and either pressured, encouraged, or at least agreed with the mother to abort their children.

The abortion issue isn’t about the church needing to speak to the world. It’s about the church needing to speak to itself first, and *then* to the world.

Though I’m a Christian, I don’t make many arguments from the Bible in the main body of this book. (I’ve done that elsewhere,¹² and also deal with Scripture in this book’s appendices.) The case I present is grounded in medical science and reliable psychological

studies. These sources should be as credible to any truth-respecting agnostic or atheist as they are to Christians.

I'm a strong believer in women's rights. I have the deepest respect for my wife and my daughters, whom we raised to respect themselves and to be grateful God made them female. I don't want to understate the trauma women have gone through in making abortion-related decisions. No one understands suffering like Jesus Christ, who is full of grace and truth. Chapter 19 on finding God's forgiveness is one I need as much as anyone.

This book presents facts and logic, infused with grace and compassion, that can help us root our beliefs in reality.

My Request of Readers

If you are pro-choice and reading a book titled *Why Pro-Life?* then good for you. I hope this means you have an open mind. If the pro-life side proves to be as senseless and irrational as you may have been led to believe, fine, you can give it the firsthand rejection it deserves. But if it proves to be sensible, then I encourage you to rethink your position.

If you're one of the 50 percent who are on the fence, with mixed feelings, I ask you to make this book part of your quest for truth. You can hear the pro-choice position anywhere—just turn on a TV or read the newspaper. But unless you read or listen to other viewpoints more widely than most people, this book may be your only opportunity to examine the pro-life position.

If you are pro-life, I also ask you to think through your position. It isn't good enough to say, "I know I'm right, but I'm not sure why." We should base our beliefs on the evidence. If we're wrong on any point, by all means let's revise our position. If we're right, we need to learn how to intelligently and graciously inform others.

One thing is certain: If abortion really does kill children and harm women, then there's too much at stake to remain silent and do nothing.



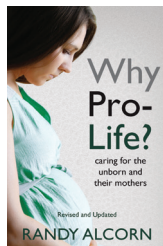
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with author Randy Alcorn

More about *Why ProLife?*

This thoroughly revised and updated edition of *Why Pro-Life?* offers factual answers to the central issues of the abortion debate in a concise, non-abrasive way. Randy Alcorn presents a solid case for defending both unborn children and their mothers.

Purchase this book



About Randy Alcorn

Randy is the founder and director of Eternal Perspective Ministries and the best-selling author of over 50 books (over nine million in print) including *Heaven*, *The Treasure Principle*, and the Gold Medallion winner *Safely Home*.



About Eternal Perspective Ministries

Eternal Perspective Ministries (EPM) is a nonprofit ministry dedicated to teaching principles of God's Word and assisting the church in ministering to the unreached, unfed, unborn, uneducated, and unsupported people around the world. You can order all of Randy's books and products through EPM's online store at **www.epm.org**.