



## Life Newsbytes

**Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) released its 2013-2014 annual report in December.** In response, the national pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List (SBA List) released a fact sheet detailing the following:

In 2013, Planned Parenthood performed 327,653 abortions. Over the past three reported years, Planned Parenthood has performed nearly one million abortions.

In 2013, abortions made up 94% of Planned Parenthood's pregnancy services.

For every adoption referral, Planned Parenthood performed 174 abortions.

While abortions rose, Planned Parenthood adoption referrals dropped 14% in one year, and prenatal care services dropped 4%.

Taxpayer funding accounts for 41% (\$528 million) of Planned Parenthood's overall revenue.

SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser said about Planned Parenthood: "Their latest annual report is fresh evidence that Planned Parenthood remains an abortion-centered, profit-driven business ... their bottom line is all about abortion."

*(SBA List News Release, 12/31/14; CLR Life News, 1/7/15)*

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## Speaking Up For Life

"What we see as a burden, God sees as an opportunity for service. To shortchange a life that we determine as a burden is to shortchange opportunities for the love of God to be manifest in others." *Evan S. McClanahan, pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas*

"The world increasingly sees death as a friend, just another part of life, a compassionate way out of suffering. We know better. We believe better. We live in victory. We endure suffering. We suffer with one another. We turn to promises, not death, in the midst of suffering. We have a better refrain to sing than touting death as friend. So sing it! 'What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!'" *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

"'All life is not equal' is the lie that upheld slavery for so long in this great land ... is the lie that upholds racism still today ... was the lie that drove the obliteration of six million Jews ... is the lie tyrants still today employ for ethnic cleansing ... is the lie told by the greatest monsters ever to arise from the race of men ... is the lie that the powerful have more rights than the powerless ... is the lie that one person's convenience trumps another's most basic human right: the right to life." *Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia*

[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes)

## About Marriage by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

In God's "very good" Creation, one thing was "not good." **"It is not good for the man to be alone"** (Genesis 2:18a NIV). Man did not need companionship but relationship, a relationship that would be like God's relationship with him. He who bore the image of God needed someone who also bore the image of God in order to have a God-like relationship. So God made a woman in His image (Genesis 1:27). She was like the man (Genesis 2:23), but different. She was created at a different time, in a different way, and for a different purpose (Genesis 2:22, 2:15, 3:20). It was that difference that made possible the kind of relationship God wanted.

Adam and Eve were capable of becoming one flesh, thus mirroring their relationship with their Creator. God brought them together in this relationship called marriage (Genesis 2:24). Marriage was part of God's perfect Creation, not a curb for sin. Marriage is the relationship for procreation. **"Be fruitful and increase in number"** (Genesis 1:28 NIV). The effects of sin upon God's biological process for procreation sometimes makes it difficult or impossible for a marriage to fulfill this blessing. However, barring such unfortunate circumstances, children are to be the result of this one-flesh union.

Sin brings problems to marriage. The reality of problematic marriages, however, does not abdicate the essence of marriage. Jesus makes this clear in Mark 10:6-8. What God intended marriage to be in the beginning, He still intends marriage to be.

Scripture uses marriage as a picture of God's relationship with His people. God is Israel's "husband" (Isaiah 54:5; Jeremiah 3:14; Hosea 2:19-20). He rejoices over His bride (Isaiah 62:5). Jesus is the Bridegroom and the Church His bride (Rev. 19:7). His unconditional love for His bride caused Him to give Himself up for her (Ephesians 5:25).

Lutherans For Life affirms the blessing of marriage as revealed in God's Word. We affirm that marriage is a God-given institution between a man and a woman, that it reflects our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer, and that it is the means God has chosen for procreation. Based on this, we humble ourselves before God and ask His forgiveness for all the times we dishonor marriage by trivializing its importance, by failing to reflect Christ's love in our marriages, and by our failure to connect the importance of marriage and our relationship to God.

Based on this, we also reject homosexual unions as contrary to the Word of God. The "sameness" of homosexuals prevents a one-flesh union as well as the possibility of the procreation of children. Such unions do not and cannot reflect our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Such unions are based on a lie rather than the Word of God (Romans 1:25) and cannot constitute a marriage.

Marriage is founded upon the promise publicly exchanged between one man and one woman. Similarly, our Redeemer binds Himself to His Church with His promise, **"I am with you always"** (Matthew 28:20 NIV); **"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you"** (Hebrews 13:5 NIV). Living together without the public promise of mutual love, respect, and fidelity dishonors marriage and is fornication. Adultery breaks the marriage vow, whether by marital infidelity, abuse, or abandonment. We must reject as contrary to the Word of God these and all practices which would not keep the marriage bed pure, including impurity of thought, word, or deed. We also reject any reproductive technologies that violate or circumvent the institution of marriage.

We believe, as God says, **"Marriage should be honored by all"** (Hebrews 13:4a NIV). May God give us the faith, wisdom, and courage to bring honor to God's blessing of marriage. (For more go to: [www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/article/marriage-a-statement-by-lutherans-for-life))