

Letters to the Editor

Christians should protest our involvement in abortion

To the editor:
According to the Biden regime and their race-baiting Neo-Marxist allies, racism is the greatest national sin. What is America's greatest sin? Rejection of God. This sin leads to all others. True racism is a grievous sin. Abortion is a vile, widespread sin, though. The Christian worldview teaches God created Adam and Eve to reflect his image in the material world, to exercise dominion over it, to reproduce and fill it with other image-bearers, and to live God-centered lives. Marriage and family life are means of grace to provide a safe environment for image-bearers to flourish and to glorify God.

Abortion is a grievous sin, flowing from a darkened, hardened, self-absorbed, merciless heart, in rebellion against God and his created order.

Who participates in the murder of these image-bearers of God?

Parents can legally murder their vulnerable, unborn offspring in our nation. Those who should be their most trusted protectors murder 900,000 unborn children annually. Sixty-two million unborn lives have been extinguished through abortion since Roe v. Wade (1973).

Medical professionals perform the dirty work of abortion, sometimes in a deceptive fashion. In some states, legislation requires showing the parent images of the unborn. Often, technicians intentionally select angles giving the impression of a mere mass of flesh rather than clearer angles displaying the humanity of the victim.

Pro-abortion activists display their evil, hypocritical face through abortion. They are well-represented by God-haters like Neo-Marxists, eugenicists, atheists and radical feminists. The left call their opponents Nazis, ironically, while enabling a massive holocaust.

They know abortion negatively impacts groups they profess to care about. Abortion impacts black families disproportionately, with rates three to four times higher than the general population. Abortion is used to terminate pregnancies of those with disabilities or other characteristics (e.g., Down's syndrome, spinal bifida, wrong sex). Funny how these injustices are missing from oppressor/oppressed narratives.

Legislatures and courts are adamant about abortion rights of parents. They dehumanize the unborn by assigning personhood and pain sensitivity at arbitrary stages of development like the third trimester. Neither legislatures nor courts have any objective basis for metaphysical claims. They aren't even consistent. For example, an overwhelming majority (93%) of Democrat Senators (including Kamala Harris and the infamous "Squad") opposed S.311 legislation in 2019 requiring doctors to render medical aid to abortion survivors outside the womb.

And why are Republican-dominated legislatures failing to advance abolition legislation? Indiana law permits abortions as late as 22 weeks! Are legislators manipulating Christians for votes, with no regard for abolishing abortion?

Democrat voters enable Democrat politicians, who are champions of abortion. Shamefully, professing Christians vote for pro-abortion candidates like Biden. Contrast this with early Christians, who rescued abandoned newborns left to die on Roman streets.

The Biden regime wants to repeal the Hyde Amendment, effectively forcing biblical Christians, against their convictions, to participate in funding abortion. Christians should never enable ghosts like them.

I do not have optimism this evil generation will abolish abortion, short of a massive revival, changing hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. Ultimately, though, the blood of the slain will be avenged by God in the

coming judgment. The truly repentant need to escape the evils of this age and flee to Christ.

Christians, be vocal and contact your federal and state representatives. Protest our involvement in abortion, nationally and internationally.

For more information, I suggest the article Ten Quick Replies to Common (and Dumb) Pro-Abortion Arguments and Assertions by Seth Dillon (Google for it). Additionally, I recommend "Whatever Happened to the Human Race — Full Movie" with Francis Schaeffer/C. Everett Koop, and the testimony of former abortionist, Dr. Anthony Levatino, both available on YouTube.

If you want clarification on anything, contact me at sparkmanr1@mediacommbb.net.

Robert Sparkman
Rome City

Northeast Indiana's Veterans Service Officers are a team

To the editor:
Veterans Service Officer's (VSO) in Northeast Indiana are a close-knit team united in assisting our veterans and their families with receiving their VA benefits. There is no competition between county VSOs. All of us work together to provide great VSO service to our veterans. We routinely call, meet, and email each other to collaborate on our veterans' needs. We are a brotherhood/sisterhood which I was blessed to be a part of.

Allen Connelly (LaGrange County), Alex Dobson (Steuben County), Mike Clouse (Noble County) and Joe Wasson (Allen County) are all friends and served as mentors to me during my time in the DeKalb County VSO position. I relied heavily on their years of experience and I owe each of them a debt of gratitude and thank you for supporting me in the DeKalb County VSO office. All of them are top-notch VSOs and they certainly don't need the likes of me to confirm that.

In my opinion, there were a few KPC articles in the past few months that portrayed our offices may compete, rather than work together or that one VSO office is better than another. This couldn't be further from the truth. All NE Indiana VSOs work tirelessly, and many more hours than our contracts require, to assist all NE Indian veterans/families regardless of the counties they may reside in.

We are blessed in DeKalb County to have Commissioners and a County Council that are committed to providing all needed resources for our DeKalb County veterans. Commissioners and County Council past and present have routinely expanded VSO services and capabilities in DeKalb County and in my opinion, they've provided a model example for how VSO offices can and should be resourced. I am honored to have worked for Commissioners and County Council that are passionate about supporting our Veterans.

Finally, the good Lord provided me an opportunity to become an educator where I get the chance to lead, teach and mentor young kids on a daily basis. This info was left out of the latest VSO article on the front page of The Star. Five months ago, I had no idea this once in a lifetime opportunity would present itself nor was I looking for the opportunity. However, God led me down this path and while I'll miss serving the veterans/their families in NE Indiana, I am extremely excited to be shaping the future of our youth. I've been blessed to live a life of service to country and community and I look forward to continuing my service as an educator.

That being said, I will not be a stranger to veterans' support as my non-profit (High N Tight Lawn Care) will continue to provide free lawn mowing/snow removal services to disabled/elderly NE Indiana Veterans or their surviving spouses. This is written with deep respect.

Travis Holcomb
DeKalb County Deputy VSO/
Outreach Coordinator



My email inbox is a time sink

Here's something most people have probably experienced in their work and personal lives — email is a drag.

Like your physical mailbox, which typically breaks down into two types of items — junk and bills — your email inbox is probably equally as filled with trash.



THE GARBACZ DUMP

Steve Garbacz

My coworkers rib me that I'm often inattentive to my inbox. "Did you see that email I sent you?" they'll ask on a phone call. "No, haven't been paying attention to my inbox," I'll respond.

I don't sit around babysitting my email all day unless I'm waiting for something I actually need for two reasons.

1) It takes time to sort through email, time that I can spend actually doing work and 2) Most of the email I get on a daily basis is junk anyway.

But *exactly* how much garbage jams up my inbox every day? Well, that was an interesting question, one that I sought to quantify.

Tracking my email

Starting on Sept. 21 and running through Oct. 1, I decided to track all of the email I received in my work inbox to see how much was really worth receiving and how much ended up in the virtual dump. I did not include Saturday, Sept. 25, and Sunday, Sept. 26, because I received far fewer emails those days (although similar to most days the majority of what came in was junk).

I broke my emails down into three categories:

1) Trash — These are emails that I can read the subject line and then delete without opening because either they are spam, other junk that wouldn't end up in the newspaper in any conceivable universe and other emails that I didn't need to actually read to get the gist of.

2) Read — Emails that I actually opened to read the contents of, but didn't require any response. Emails that I don't actually read on a daily basis but automatically move to archive in case I need them some other time (Noble County Jail bookings for example), I counted as read.

3) Responded — Emails that I read and that required me to respond in some way, whether that be sending a reply or forwarding to someone else.

One thing I did not track was emails I sent but that weren't spawned off an email I received. For example, notes to my staff or reminders or emails sent to sources

to try to get information. There weren't a ton. I usually prefer to yell out my office door or call someone, since those are more direct than clogging up someone's inbox.

Checking the emails

One benefit (or was it a detriment?) of this experiment was that I actually had to interact with all of my emails every day, which turned out to require more of my time than I cared to spend.

I've seen people who have like 20,000 unread emails in their inbox and that drives me crazy. Ideally, I like to have a clean inbox with no unread emails, or the ones that are unread are ones I've left unread on purpose in order to address later.

Generally if my inbox hits about 300 unread emails, I start the process of going through them and deleting all the garbage that's clogging it up, a process that can take one to two hours of time.

Doing it every day and interacting in some way with every single email meant I now did see everything that came in in a timely manner, however, it wasted more of my time every day doing so.

The results

Total received: Over the nine-day period, I received 861 emails, an average of about 96 per day. The high was 117 on Sept. 21, the low was 73 on Sept. 24.

I actually expected more and, I'm sure as time goes on and my work email ends up on more PR firm inventories and local mailing lists, that number will only increase. Our Angola editor claims he receives about 300 per day, which would make me shoot myself.

Trash: Of the 861 emails I received, most went straight into the trash. In total, 687 emails — 79.8% — I deleted without reading. That was an average of about 76 emails per day.

Some were press-stopping PR garbage like "Sour Punch and Red Vines — Spook-tacular New Candy Launches" or "App Works Abs While You Play Games! Samples Available!"

Others were the constant non-newsworthy emails from Indiana Democrats whining about Republicans and equally useless press releases from Indiana Republicans whining about Democrats.

Some were daily police logs from communities I don't normally cover, silver alert updates and cancellations from Indiana State Police and INDOT emails without anything noteworthy in them.

And then of course spam about people offering remote recruiters, unsolicited spam asking to post stuff on our website and scams informing me about my recent Macbook purchase and to respond if this

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How much productivity in our economy is wasted babysitting email?”

message was in error. Overall, about 8-in-10 emails had no value but required time to review and remove.

Read: Over nine days, I read 142 emails — 16.5% — that didn't require any response after reading. Inter-office emails, updates from reporters, things that might be news items. That was about 16 emails per day.

This category was also bolstered a bit by a number of incoming emails from Indeed as I'm currently in the process of hiring a new sports reporter, so I was getting applications, resumes and writing clips I normally wouldn't have.

Responded: Over nine days, I responded to just 32 emails — 3.7% — or about 3.5 per day.

In the end, only about 1-in-27 emails I get per day actually requires me to communicate back with someone.

Conclusion

Overall, only about 20% of my email is even worth reading. And only about a quarter of that email requires some sort of response.

The one thing I couldn't adequately capture is how much time was spent on these emails. Since I checked them at random intervals throughout the day, I couldn't (well, I guess I *could* have but didn't) stopwatch it.

If every email takes an average of just 5 seconds, that would be 8 minutes out of the day. But if every email took 30 seconds to process, now you're talking 48 minutes — 10% of an 8-hour workday.

How much productivity in our economy is wasted babysitting email?

For me, the answer is already "more than I care for" and it's likely to get worse as time goes on.

If you send me an email and don't hear back right away, I apologize in advance. If it's urgent, give me a call at my desk instead.

It gets busy around here and my time is often better spent elsewhere than my inbox.

STEVE GARBACZ is executive editor of KPC Media Group and editor of The News Sun. He actually enjoys getting (and often responding to) emails from readers of his columns. Send them his way at sgarbacz@kpcmedia.com.

Read online any time at kpcnews.com

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