

## WHAT BEING PRO-CHOICE REALLY MEANS VS. WHAT PEOPLE THINK IT MEANS



Twins at 8.5 weeks as seen on the Voluson E10 ultrasound.  
Photo courtesy of GE

January 22, 1973 was the day the Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* - legalizing abortion in the U.S. Today, many people who consider themselves ProChoice are unclear on what that means In Real Life, and politically. It's worth an issue of *Positively Waiting* news to clarify where we are 59 years and 60 million abortions after *Roe*.

The official ProChoice position is that abortion should be available, free of charge, to any woman (of any age, including minors) within the geographic US as well as any country which receives taxpayer funding, at any time, for any reason up until the moment of birth. She should be able to terminate without restriction or outside interference including those regulations meant to provide medical safety, quality of care or access to emergency services in the event something goes wrong.

That's the official, political position.

But what **most** people mean when they say they are ProChoice is very different. Its usually some combination of these ideals.

- ◆ I don't want a pregnant woman to have a baby she can't provide for — physically, financially or emotionally.
- ◆ I don't want women who conceived against their will to have to give birth to the offspring of their attacker.
- ◆ I don't want women who are too young to be good parents to be in charge of caring for babies.
- ◆ I don't want to make such a personal decision for someone else when I can't possibly know what is best for her.
- ◆ I don't want babies to be born into circumstances with little chance of happiness or prosperity.

In 1973 things were different. Today, a pregnant woman has a plethora of options. All 50 states provide emergency financial and medical services to pregnant women. Most states have more pregnancy centers than abortion providers — places where she can access resources and find advocates to help manage relational pressures.

She can give birth and parent, or choose another family to parent in her place, if she is unable or unwilling — and craft a legal relationship which gives her updates or even access as the child grows. She can also surrender the child to any fire department, hospital or police station without penalty under Safe Haven laws. **She** has power, options, and resources.

But the other person involved is completely helpless, voiceless and choice-less. The unborn has no choice but to hope that other people *beside his mother* will be his advocate. To direct her to the source of assets she doesn't know about. To seek out caring individuals who will help her stand up to those pressuring her to abort because they might be inconvenienced. To remind her that life itself is a promise and a hope.

Which is the more noble act — being an advocate for the person with all the power, options and choices *against* the one who is helpless, voiceless and choice-less or speaking up, with compassion for the mom, in defense of the new life entrusted to her body? Is it more virtuous to urge a pregnant woman to think only of her own needs so she can justify removing barriers to them, or is it more virtuous to inspire and empower a hesitant mom-to-be to press toward the heroism and selflessness of becoming a good mom?

And beyond that, which of those advocacies will produce a better society ?



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## COACH'S CORNER

The opposite of success isn't failure.  
It's giving up.

Coaching a child into making smart choices means the PARENT will experience failure. No matter how good a coach you are, your child WILL make some bad choices. That means not only will your child have to live with the consequences, embarrassment and (often) lost opportunities — but so do YOU!

It's very easy to be fooled into thinking because your *child* made a bad choice, that a “good parent” or a “better parent” would have prevented it from happening. This is simply not true. Given how adolescent brains process and develop over time, poor decisions are baked into the cake. No one escapes. This is just your turn in the kitchen.

Mom and Dad, stop comparing apple to apples — as in “their kid made the right choice in this situation, my kid made the wrong choice” — and concluding you're a “failure” as a parent!

One decision does not determine who is a Good Parent, anymore than one diaper change does! It is the consistent guidance over time, resulting in an independent critical thinker who cares about others, and takes personal responsibility, which is the measure of Good Parenting.

If you are in the thick of it, watching your child experience the consequences of their poor decisions, remind yourself that the opposite of success *isn't failure* — giving up is! Hang in there, Coach! Keep playing the long game!

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