



by Peter Scaer

You Matter

When we hear the word “eugenics,” many of us think back to World War II. Before concentration camps were built, Hitler’s reign of terror began with an attempt to rid Germany of those deemed mentally or physically unfit.

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The Nazis implemented their eugenics policy against the feeble-minded and mentally unstable, as well as those suffering from such ailments as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. All told, the Nazis forcibly sterilized more than 400,000 people, and killed another 300,000 through euthanasia.

Less widely advertised is the fact that the eugenics movement began in England and became quite popular in the United States. Our own government took part in the forced sterilization of unwanted population groups. Margaret Sanger used eugenics to popularize Planned Parenthood. She promoted birth control as a way toward a better and purer race. A frequent guest speaker at rallies of the Ku Klux Klan, she hoped to “create a race of thoroughbreds” (*Birth Control Review*).


In her book *The Pivot of Civilization*, she called immigrants and poor people “human weeds” and “reckless breeders,” even “human beings that should never have been born.” Alveda King, the niece of the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., notes that Planned Parenthood still targets vulnerable communities, typically setting up their clinics in the inner city, targeting the African-American community. To this day, abortion is recommended for children born with abnormalities and birth defects. Tragically, the

vast majority of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome have their lives taken by abortion.

The biblical vision of humanity is so much different. In God's eyes, every person is valuable. Every life is precious. That's what being pro-life is all about. Each and every person matters — not because you are smart or strong or talented, but because you are a human being, created in God's image, redeemed by the blood of Christ. You matter, not because of what other people think of you, but because God loves each and every person. Our life is defined by Christ, who sanctified all life by making His home in the womb of His mother Mary. As Isaiah said of our Lord, “He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.” (ISAIAH 53:2) And yet, that same Lord, despised by men, is none other than our beautiful Savior. And so it is, we see the face of our Lord in all who suffer and who our lowly. In response to our Lord's command, we welcome to our church “the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.” (LUKE 14:13) Since those who suffer and are lowly are dear to the Lord's heart, they are dear to ours as well. For in God's Kingdom, the first are last, and the last are first. The mighty are knocked down, and the humbled are lifted up. With God, every child is in fact a wanted child. So also with us. **LW**

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