



Dear Friend,

Something is rotten in the state of the pro-life movement. We are fighting so hard to save unborn babies from abortion that we become tunnel-visioned. It isn't that we should stop being mindful of the plight of the unborn. But we shouldn't focus on the unborn to the neglect of everyone else. What are we missing?

Love.

"But Tim, we love babies; we aren't missing love."

I'm glad you love babies; I do, too. Over a million of them are dying each year, so we had better do something about that. But do you love their moms? Do you love their dads? Do you love your pro-choice friends? Sometimes I don't.

While I was reflecting on this problem a few months ago, it reminded me of 1 Corinthians 13. I wrote my struggles into the text, not to elevate my thoughts to the level of Scripture, but to remind myself of the power of a passage quoted so often that I hear the words without thinking about what they mean. Below, I've placed the original text in bold type with my added thoughts in normal type. This exercise has been helpful to me. I hope it is helpful to you, too.



This Oklahoma State University student named Bri asked me questions like, "Do you think women who have abortions are as evil in their hearts as Nazis?" Never before had she talked with a pro-life person about abortion and seen any compassion.

If I speak with the conviction of a great apologist, **but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

And if I have great powers of perception, **and understand** all science and philosophy, **and if I have all faith**, so as to inspire a congregation, **but have not love, I am nothing.**

If I give away all excess income to pregnancy care centers and take in unwed mothers, **and if I deliver up** my reputation for the cause of saving unborn babies, **but have not love, I gain nothing.**

Love is patient; it listens and seeks to understand rather than merely waiting for the chance to respond.

Love is kind; it treats everyone as a valuable human being made in the image of God – not just embryos, fetuses, and those who agree with us.

Love does not envy or boast; it gives all glory to God and does not seek to be honored by men.

Love is not arrogant; it remembers how many times it has made mistakes in reasoning.

Love is not rude; it does not dehumanize people by calling them faggots, homos, or fairies.



Love does not insist on its own way; it does not need to have the last word in a debate.

Love is not irritable; it is slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Love is not resentful; it does not dwell on the failures of those around us.

Love does not rejoice at wrongdoing; it is not excited when those who oppose us are caught in sin.

Love rejoices with the truth; it does not distort the facts or misconstrue another's arguments.

Love bears all things; it does not need to be defensive when insulted.

Love believes all things; it does not assume that people have evil intentions just because they disagree.

Love hopes all things; it is not cynical, but remembers that God is good and He is in control.

Love endures all things; it does not give up on the unborn no matter how discouraged we feel.

Every time I read this I can't help but remember times I utterly failed to love people. God forgive me; when I was seventeen years old, I told an obnoxious pro-choice woman on an online forum that I wasn't going to "cast my pearls before her anymore." Yes, I had that much nerve. And yes, I was that arrogant. In my conversations now, I don't imply that the people I encounter are swine. But almost ten years later I still struggle sometimes to think of the person I'm talking to as a human being made in the image of God, just as precious as the unborn babies we're trying to save.

How do you react to this? Does this little exercise make you feel as convicted as it makes me feel? If it does, I'd like to encourage you to join me in asking God for forgiveness and asking Him to help us love the people around us.

But whatever you do, don't let a fear of making mistakes cause you not to try. On the day that you read this there will be more than three thousand abortions, killing more than three thousand babies and deeply wounding more than three thousand moms. There are also millions and millions of people who don't know Jesus. Who will tell them about Him if you and I give up out of fear?

We can't help them all, but by God's grace we *can* help many of them. If you're thinking to yourself, "Yes, you're right; I need to do something," but you don't know *what* to do, give me a call (316-683-6426). I have lots of ideas.

I would like to encourage you to pick one of those seventeen lines of the text above, read it every morning for the next two weeks, and ask God to help you to live it out. I'd love to hear how it goes. I'm going to put this into practice myself, starting with the "Love is patient" line for the month of January.

In Christ,
Tim

Hear Me Speak!

On November 4th of this year, I spoke to fifty-five students and parents at Grace Community Church in Marietta, Georgia. The goal was to provide the students an introduction to the basic arguments for the pro-life view.

You can watch portions of the presentation or download audio for your iPod at www.jfaweb.org/Timothy_Brahm_Links.

Some of you have asked for help in defending your pro-life views with truth and grace. This presentation will help. Others of you have wanted to hear me speak. I'm excited to share this presentation with you. I hope you enjoy it.

