המוסד למען קדושת חיי אדם

Saving Jewish Lives



Healing Jewish Hearts

TORAH READINGS:
Kedoshim: Leviticus 19:1-20:27

The torah reading this week, Kedoshim: Leviticus 19:1-20:27, challenges us to view our 'choseness' as a mandate to be holy, for God's sake and for our own sake. Our escape from sin, shame, guilt, self-degradation, moral failure, and corruption rests on embracing a life based on Torah, spiritual principles that set us apart from secular lifestyles. Many of the guidelines enumerated in this portion strongly substantiate a repudiation of the abortion industry, advocacy and practice, which epitomize evil.

Every man shall fear his mother and his father and keep my Sabbaths. I am the Lord: We must accept our parents' authority unless they ask us to violate God's moral authority. We must reject abortion even though our parents insist on it. This requires great courage and faith if our parents abandon us as punishment for disobedience. If we succumb to fear, we can redeem ourselves by recognizing our human weakness and supporting others on their journey of faith and integrity.

Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molten gods; I am the Lord your God: We have a tendency to idolize intellectual ability, reputation, financial security, professional status, ourselves and others, all of which can easily convince us that abortion is necessary to promote and protect our selfish interests. Best to reclaim our spiritual dignity with renewed allegiance to HaShem and the sanctity of human life, made in His image and precious in His sight.

You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. Abortion advocates commonly engage in duplicitous practices by routinely failing to report evidence of sexual assault and sex trafficking, failing to provide informed consent to patients and negative consequences of the procedure. Abortion industry propaganda rests on many lies: 'abortion is healthcare', 'it's a clump of cells', it's a harmless medical procedure', it will solve your problems'.

Do not stand by your fellow's blood: We have a duty to get involved when another's life is threatened. We are obligated to participate in pro-life activities to save the lives of our innocent children and to protect our vulnerable women from the always harmful, sometimes life-threatening effects of abortion.

You shall not hate your brother in your heart, rebuke, rebuke your fellow: Rather than harbor resentment or shame regarding another Jew's unholy actions, we are obligated to educate and correct. As Jews, we must diligently work to reverse decades of indifference to Jewish abortion advocacy and practice.

Do not prostitute your daughter, to cause her to be a harlot, lest the land fall to harlotry, and the land become full of foulness: Teach our young Jewish women modesty, sexual abstinence, and self respect rather than contraception, abortion, and self abandonment.

Love your neighbor as yourself: Love rejoices in and supports life. We are required to love our neighbor and our neighbor's unborn child by taking actions that support and encourage successful life saving outcomes. Born and unborn are all united in God's loving creation.

*Whosoever he be of the children of Israel that giveth his children to Molech, he shall surely be put to death: C*hild sacrifice is strictly forbidden to Jews and those who live among them. God makes this a capital crime, and warns that He will make desolate the soul of any person that commits or condones this crime. Our sensibilities have been coarsened to the heinous nature of child killing, so that many of us may consider God's punishment to be extreme, but it is clear to many that abortion has resulted in a growing soulless society, far removed from the holy vision He imagined for us.

May there be abundant peace from Heaven, and good life upon us and upon all Israel. Amen.