

## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & the Civil Rights of the Preborn**

***“The Negro cannot win if he is willing to sacrifice the future of his children for immediate personal comfort and safety. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”***

On April 4, 1968, an assassin took the life of arguably the most influential American civil rights leader in the modern era. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a devout Christian who believed in loving one’s neighbor while boldly confronting racial injustice in a non-violent manner. Though the Supreme Court decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* didn’t occur until six years after his tragic death, Dr. King, as well as others within his immediate circle of civil right leaders, spoke up routinely for the preborn.

Dr. King denounced abortion as a form of genocide in many speeches. In fact, another civil rights icon, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, who helped co-found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Dr. King, stated: “Among the values promoted by AFC are a strong national defense, opposition to abortion and pornography ...” (from “A Promise for the Future,” American Freedom Coalition pamphlet, September 1987). Dr. Abernathy continued to preach against abortion until his death in 1990.

Many abortion supporters point to Dr. King’s acceptance of a Planned Parenthood award in 1966 as evidence that he was for “reproductive rights,” including abortion. What these people fail to recognize is that during the 1960s, Planned Parenthood was focused on birth control and even stated in one of their pamphlets that abortion kills a baby. The pamphlet reads: “Is birth control abortion? Definitely not. An abortion kills the life of a baby after it has begun. It is dangerous to your life and health. It may make you sterile so that when you want a child you cannot have it...” (from “Is Birth Control Abortion?”). So, in 1966 Planned Parenthood was publically against abortion as was Dr. King, and this fact repudiates any claim that he favored abortion.

Dr. King’s niece, Dr. Alveda C. King made the following statement on behalf of her uncle: “If Planned Parenthood had announced that over [60] million babies would be aborted in the onslaught of their agenda,

I would have never aborted my child. Dr. King would have never agreed with the violent violation of the civil rights of the millions of aborted babies, and Planned Parenthood’s subsequent blitz of women’s health problems... This conclusion leads me to remind my readers that I too have a dream; it’s in my genes. How can the dream survive if we murder the children?”

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