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2019/2020 CONTEST

Mass Violence in America

In our society there has been a growing concern about mass violence, especially over the past several years. Many celebrities, politicians, and religious leaders have contributed their proposed "solutions" to this problem. Because of this, we tend to think that our country is firmly against *all* violence, but that is not quite the case. In reality, it is quite shocking just how much horrific violence is sanctioned in America; and, in one case, even protected as a constitutional right.

What would you think if you learned that a 15 year old boy from your town had taken a gun and ran through the streets and alleys trying to shoot and kill as many innocent people as possible? You would be horrified, and rightly so. And yet, because of Hollywood, or more specifically, the gaming industry, our nation's teenagers are being trained to do just that! With mental health being such a major concern today, especially in our youth, it is time that the developers of these realistic role-playing games stand up and take responsibility for the mixed-messages they are sending our nation's young people.

Our society, unlike many others across the world, is known for valuing children. They are considered to be the weakest among us, and we strive to protect and defend them above all else. When there is news that someone has committed a crime against a child, it arouses our anger. Therefore; it has always puzzled me why we turn our backs on the biggest crime against children the world has ever known: abortion.

The politicians making impassioned and emotional speeches about protecting children from gun violence are the same ones voting to make sure it is legal for tiny infants to be murdered! This is a huge discrepancy that must be addressed if we ever want to have a true children-first society.

The lesson we all need to learn from these examples of "acceptable" versus "unacceptable" violence is that when we finally see human life the way God sees it, as precious in *all* of it's many stages, and when we teach that truth diligently to the next generation, then, and only then, will we be able to call ourselves a nation of mercy and compassion. I will do all I can to be a voice for those who have no voice, so that we can begin to reduce mass violence in our wonderful country. Will you join me?