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2019 / 2020 CONTEST

In What Ways is Unacceptable Mass Violence Tied to our Society's Accepted Violence (such as Abortion), and What Can I Do to Help Reduce Violence in our Society?

Every week it seems like we hear about a new mass shooting somewhere in America. Churches, schools, synagogues, malls; nowhere is off-limits. The media blames mental health and poor gun restrictions for these terrible incidents, but those are only part of the cause of this epidemic of death.

Mass violence, just like abortion, stems from society's gradual decrease of care for all human life and an increase in the culture of death. Caring for life means ALL life, not just those we agree with, or those who benefit society. For example, people with Down Syndrome. According to the Life Issues Institute, 67% of babies diagnosed with Down Syndrome in the womb in America are aborted. Parents often think they're choosing the more "compassionate" option, or that raising a baby with Downs will be too hard. But this is just the opposite. People with Down Syndrome are some of the happiest one could ever meet, and they lead happy, fulfilling lives, some even opening their own businesses!

Unfortunately, the Down Syndrome example is only one small facet of the disregard for human life in our culture. Society's focus has shifted away from the rights of the individual, the idea that although one's ideas and beliefs may differ from ours, their life is still precious, because life at any stage is inherently good. This is especially evident in the amount of mass shootings triggered by race, religion, and ideological motives.

Likewise, Americans have forgotten that the unborn are just little people who will grow up and have their own individual lives. They will go to school, have jobs, get married, have their own children. But so often they are looked at as "problems," or "burdens," an interruption to a woman's otherwise perfectly planned out life. It is time for America to wake up and realize that we are throwing our babies away like they are nothing more than a piece of trash.

America has achieved so much and prospered as no other country before it, because it has protected and preserved the dignity of individuals like no other civilization in history. But, with every innocent baby ripped apart limb by limb in her mother's womb, and every elderly rabbi shot in his own temple, America loses that reputation of standing up for the individual.

But, all hope is not lost! America has the chance to return to her former glory if only her citizens will start respecting each other again. This can be done simply by having conversations with those we disagree with and realizing diversity of thought is what makes America great. Also by returning to her former Christian roots and loving everybody just like Jesus commanded. However, this does not mean trying to convert them and subtly pushing your agenda. It simply means loving them for who they are like Jesus did. If we love all, even the imperfect or unplanned, no mother will even consider abortion as an option. And that, that is the final goal.