



June 6, 2014

Cecile Richards
President
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
434 West 33rd Street
New York, NY 10001

Dear Ms. Richards:

I recently learned that Planned Parenthood has published a “Pastoral Letter” which tells women:

“The truth is that abortion is not even mentioned in the Scriptures—Jewish or Christian—and there are clergy and people of faith from all denominations who support women making this complex decision.”

It appears that this letter is no longer available on your [website](#), but an archived version can be found attached for your reference. While I disagree with Planned Parenthood’s exegesis of Scripture, I am not writing to debate that point. Instead, I write to express my agreement with Planned Parenthood, reflected in the publication of this pastoral letter, that for many women their religious beliefs will be very relevant to their decision about whether to have an abortion.

On that common ground, on behalf of Alliance Defending Freedom, I would like to offer Planned Parenthood one free copy of the Bible for every Planned Parenthood facility in the country. Planned Parenthood could place these Bibles in their waiting rooms and permit women the opportunity to explore for themselves what the Jewish and Christian Scriptures have to say about abortion. There is no doubt that we are on opposite sides of this theological and moral question. But as we are in apparent agreement that Scripture and its teachings (or lack thereof in your view) on abortion would be relevant to many women’s abortion decisions, making these Bibles available to those women would certainly benefit your potential customers.

To allay any concerns you might have, the Bibles Alliance Defending Freedom would provide to Planned Parenthood would be new unmarked copies. For instance, we would not highlight Psalm 127:3 (“Truly children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward”), Psalm 139:13 (“You knit me together in my mother’s womb...”), Psalm 22:10-11 (“You have been my guide since I was first formed . . . from my mother’s womb you are my God”) or Jeremiah 1:5 (“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart”). We would not dog-ear Exodus 20:13 (“You shall not kill”). Nor would we even

place a bookmark at Luke 1:41, 44 (where the “baby [John the Baptist] ... leapt for joy” in his mother’s womb when the baby Jesus was nearby in Mary’s womb). Rather, we would make these Bibles available, unedited and without emphasis of any kind, allowing those women visiting a Planned Parenthood facility to review them themselves.

We look forward to assisting you in this effort to ensure that women are empowered to decide for themselves what the Bible teaches on this important question. Please let me know at your earliest convenience the addresses to which each Bible should be sent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Casey Mattox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Casey Mattox
Senior Counsel
Alliance Defending Freedom

Clergy Advocacy Board Statement

Pastoral Letter to Patients

Dear Friend:

The decision to have an abortion is personal. Though your reasons may be complicated and private, you're not alone. As religious leaders from a number of religious traditions, we're here to support you in your decision.

Many people wrongly assume that all religious leaders disapprove of abortion. The truth is that abortion is not even mentioned in the Scriptures— Jewish or Christian — and there are clergy and people of faith from all denominations who support women making this complex decision. The beliefs of each person are deserving of respect, and each person deserves care and compassion. No one should be allowed to force their faith teachings on anyone else.

We believe this decision is yours, made with your doctor and anyone else you choose to bring into the conversation, such as a spouse, partner, parent, or clergy person.

Our religious traditions have somewhat different opinions about abortion, but we share some basic understandings:

- No one knows the circumstances of your life as well as you know them; no one knows what's in your heart better than you. Allow yourself to be at peace with your decision.
- God loves you and is with you no matter what you decide. You can find strength, understanding, and comfort in that love.

| If you'd like to speak with a clergy person, your [local Planned Parenthood health center](#) can refer you to someone who will be supportive of you and your decision. Your privacy will be protected and all conversations will be completely confidential.