

Why should

conservatives

**embrace the
Consistent Life Ethic?**

Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means.

-Ronald Reagan

Respecting and upholding the dignity of every human person is a conservative cause. The Republican Party was founded, in part, to end the human rights abuses of slavery in the U.S. Today, certain classes of humans are denied their intrinsic rights endowed by their Creator and enshrined in our Constitution. We fight to protect the lives of the preborn from the violence of abortion – why do we not apply this passion to defending all potential victims of aggressive violence?

The Consistent Life Ethic is a philosophy that values and respects human life at all times, in all places, under every circumstance. This means protecting every individual from the moment of conception until their natural death. Conservatives should stand up for every person whose life and liberty are on the line be it the preborn, the ill, those on death row, and casualties of foreign war.

For more info :
www.lifemattersjournal.org/conservative

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But wait...

What About the Death Penalty?

We do not lose our humanity when we commit a crime. As conservatives we believe in small government; but allowing the State to determine who lives and who dies is a clear overreach of government power.

In addition to being contrary to the inherent dignity of humanity, the death penalty is also ineffective at deterring crime,¹ is costly,² and is actually a public menace to our communities. Innocent people have been convicted, spent years on death row, and some have even been executed.³ Due to the legal costs and time it takes to go through the appeals process, it results in a waste of government resources.

What About War?

A small government would stay out of other States' affairs. As humans, our lives are intrinsically valuable, so the lives behind enemy lines are just as valuable as our own. To send our troops into unnecessary conflicts does not show respect for their lives and treats them as expendable. Only after all diplomatic options have been exhausted should we consider war. Additionally, we must always strive to cause the least human damage as possible.

While we do admit that there is the theoretical possibility of a just war, there are so many stipulations in Just War principles to prevent injustice in the declaration of war and in the battle practices themselves that are not being followed by our modern military. With everything from nuclear warfare and the targeting of civilians in drone bombings⁴ to the ways that our soldiers are trained to kill and think of enemies as subhuman,⁵ the question arises as to if we are on the righteous and moral path with our military practices.

Unjust War Practices: Preemptive Strikes

A strong national defense is important. However, it should be just that - defense. Engaging in preemptive strikes is never necessary and is an act of aggression.

Torture

Torture violates the dignity of the human person. Additionally, "advanced interrogation" methods have been proven ineffective,⁶ and those held at Guantanamo have been held without trial or due process.⁷

WORKS CITED

- ¹Sorensen, J., R. Wrinkle, V. Brewer, & J. Marquart. Capital punishment and deterrence: Examining the effect of executions on murder in Texas. 1999. *Crime & Delinquency*, 45(4), 481-493.
- ²Steiker, Carol S., & Jordan M. Steiker. "Cost and Capital Punishment: A New Consideration Transforms an Old Debate", 2010 U. CHI. LEGAL F. 117 (2010).
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- ⁴The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jul/01/obama-drones-strikes-civilian-deaths>
- ⁵Arner, Rob, and J. J. Sebastian. *Consistently Pro-Life: The Ethics of Bloodshed in Ancient Christianity*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2010. Print.
- ⁶NBC News. <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/cia-torture-report/senate-report-finds-cia-interrogation-tactics-were-ineffective-n264621>
- ⁷Christian Science Monitor. <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2010/0327/Defending-due-process-for-Guantanamo-detainees>

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