

Approaching the Issue of Abortion in the Black Community - Robert J. Monson

A byproduct of being connected to many white evangelical spaces for over a decade has had many ups and downs; one down being the incessant conversation surrounding abortion in the black community. Even as I type this article I feel an annoyance and fatigue hit me. I don't pretend to have all or actually any of the answers concerning this broad topic. I do hope to move this conversation forward a centimeter though.

"If black lives matter activists REALLY cared about black lives they would concentrate on black on black crime." Sigh. "Why don't black people concentrate on fixing abortion in their own communities rather than focus on police violence...abortion is the real killer" Yawn. While there is a measure of truth to some of these cliché statements, I have to be honest...I'm tired of hearing them. No it is not necessary for someone to be angry at ALL issues concerning a community as a prerequisite to caring about one. Abortion is usually the trump card used against black and brown people to prove that indeed minorities are complicit in their own destruction therefore they shouldn't have ANY opinions at all.

Abortion isn't a cause. Abortion isn't a cute statement. Abortion isn't a statistic. Abortion isn't poor dumb people who don't know better. Abortion is complex. Abortion is personal. Abortion is multifaceted. Abortion hurts. Abortion is depression. Abortion is a million things. Over the years I have had the opportunity to sit down with women who have committed abortion and my eyes have truly been opened in increasing ways. I know now that I can't point to a single cause in any of the cases. I had been led to believe that abortion was this one thing and found through dialogue and relationship that women have abortions for vastly different reasons. I would say that many are scared. Scared of the future. Scared of failure. Scared of lack. You name it. Some of the women are highly educated. Some are not. No Cruella Devills hidden somewhere, but regular women struggling with very complex issues.

I don't know the answers of how to approach abortion, but I would say to all politicians, believers, law makers, pastors, bible study teachers...stop the dehumanizing talk when bringing this issue up concerning minorities. Realize that your speech further denigrates this section of the population that already have enough on their plate. Realize that in order to help abortion rates lower we need comprehensive health care reforms, livable wages, safe neighborhoods, educational school programs, focus on women's rights and safety, etc. There isn't one answer and so we need a societal reformation. Even if every abortion clinic were to be shut down tomorrow, the things surrounding abortion would not be cured. In the meantime I am going to keep praying. I'm going to keep dialoguing. I'm going to keep encouraging single moms through my words and money.