

Most of the abolitionist movement (2/3rds) in America in the mid-1800's was made up of Christians and clergy.

## How Christianity Elevated the Sanctity of Human Life:

**Infanticide** is the \_\_\_\_\_ of newborn infants.

Throughout the centuries, Christians have never wavered in their condemnation of infanticide – in part because of *Matthew 19:14*.

The Greco-Roman culture (among many others) practiced **child abandonment**. In neither Greek, nor Roman literature can we find any guilt feelings over this practice. *Clement of Alexandria, a church father in the later part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, condemned the Romans for protecting birds and other creatures better than its children.*

Plato, Aristotle, Celsus and others had no problem with **abortion**, the killing of the unborn. The early church's opposition to abortion, infanticide and child abandonment distinguished Christian from pagan societies.

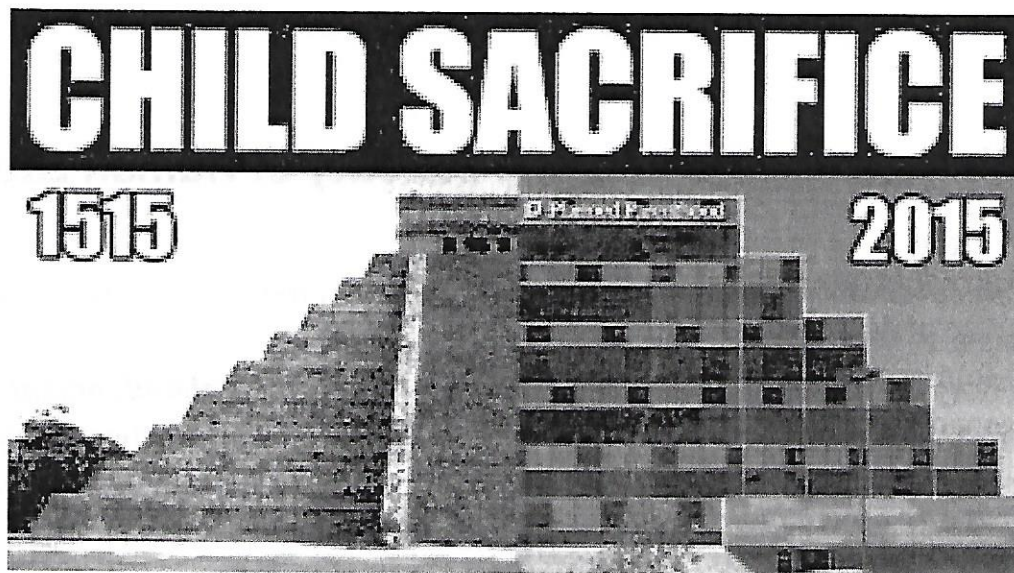


The historian W.E.H. Leakey (no friend to Christianity) states: "There is scarcely any single reform so important in the moral history of mankind as the suppression of the gladiatorial shows, a feat that must be almost exclusively ascribed to the Christian church." The games were outlawed in the Roman empire in 404AD.

## How Christianity Stopped Child Sacrifice:

Where paganism rules, it was not uncommon to see human beings, especially children, sacrificed to pagan gods. Child sacrifices were common in places like Canaan (Palestine).

*1<sup>st</sup> Kings 18:16-40, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 16:3, 21:6 and Jeremiah 7:31*



## **How Christianity Elevated Sexual Morality:**

Roman writers (Juvenal, Catullus, Martial and Ovid) testify that sexual activity between men and women had become depraved before, and during the time that Christians appeared in Roman society. Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, sadism, orgies and bestiality had become common and were even illustrated on household items like oil lamps, bowls, cups and vases. Yes, even their children saw these items, so modesty was nowhere to be found.

### **Adultery...**

*1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 7:3, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:7*

**Homosexuality...** Christians saw any sexual act outside of monogamy within marriage as sinful.  
*Romans 1:27, Jude 7*

## **How Christianity changed the Status of Women:**

A Greek woman:

Wasn't allowed to leave the house without her husband or his escort  
(usually a male slave)



When her husband's male guests were present in his home, she wasn't allowed to be with them and had to retire to her own part of the house. But the husband's mistress could be there and accompany him to events outside the home. His mistress was his companion and sexual partner.

Girls didn't go to school; throughout their lives they weren't allowed to speak in public.

Greek poets equated women with evil; it was the Greek myth of 'Pandora's Box' that blamed women for introducing evil into the world.

Greek female infanticide (the killing of newborns) far exceeded that of males.

A Roman woman:

She was under the absolute legal control of her husband, who had ownership of her and all of her possessions. (the Roman law of 'Mannus')

She couldn't divorce him, although he could divorce her at any time.

She even lacked the right to tell her husband's slaves what to do.

A husband could even kill his wife for a non-adulterous offense with the approval of an extended-family tribunal. For his wife's adultery, the husband alone could kill her.



Because of Jesus and his teachings, women - especially in the West - enjoy more privileges and rights than at any other time in world history. Because of Galatians 3:28, women were treated as equals to men.

**Christianity has also had an incredible impact on common words and symbols, expressions and sayings, art and architecture, music, the literary world and political freedom. For specific examples of these, take our class "How Christianity Changed the World".**

**Book References:**

**"How Christianity Changed the World" by Dr. Alvin Schmidt**

**"Christianity on Trial" by Carroll & Shiflett**

**"What's So Great About Christianity" by Dinesh D'Souza**

**Website References:**

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<http://christianapologeticsalliance.com/2016/02/18/americas-blessings-how-religion-benefits-everyone-including-atheists/>

**For His Kingdom,**

**Dave Maynard**

**<http://BSSSB-LLC.com>**