CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN AMERICA

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Blurring the line between social-justice issues and life issues is a common tactic. An anti-abortion activist I know insists that abortion is a social-justice issue. Her intention is to force Democrats to join her side of the culture war.

I disagree with her. Although one can use “justice” to refer to both justice between individuals and justice between groups, I prefer to think of abortion in terms of individual justice, not social justice. I suppose that, technically, one could group all fetuses together, the way one speaks of “the LGBT community” or the “scientific community.” But those are common-interest groups more than naturally occurring social groups, like classes or races or ethnicities. It is conflicts within the latter groups that social justice normally treats.

I don’t understand the divide between Democrats and social justice on the one hand, and life issues and Republicans on the other. Germany has a Social Democrats party, like our Democrats, and also a Conservative Party, like our Republicans. But what we need is a Christian Democrats party, which Germany has: a party that consistently supports Christian values. We need a party that supports all of the Church’s teachings, so that one does not have to choose which half one will support.