

I must admit, our state legislators have me bamboozled. We have three children; two teenagers and a 6-year-old. Our 6-year-old has not been riding in a car seat for over two years. Somehow, our state came up with the idea that our 6-year-old must now be in a car seat until age 8 or 80 pounds – and the car seat must be on the window so she has a shoulder strap. This has caused no end of problems.

In the first place, we had given away our car seat because we didn't need it any more – or so we thought. Then, in November we had to go out and buy a new one so that we could comply with the law. I wondered if this legislation wasn't heavily backed by car seat manufacturers.

That was nothing compared to the new logistical problems we have run into. We recently traded in our van for a station wagon. That was fine when the 6-year-old sat in the middle and the teenagers sat on the outside. Now, there is no end of jubilation when the whole family must go somewhere together and the 6-year-old gets a window seat while the teenagers vie for who is going to get stuck with the hump in the middle. I began to wonder if our state legislators have ever had children. Perhaps, in addition to car seat manufacturers, there was a strong lobby for this legislation from doctors and family counseling centers. Will the state pay for the big increase in rear-middle-hump-seat back injuries and the now-necessary family counseling caused by too many car trips together?

This is supposed to save lives, and maybe it will, but this is hard to swallow for those of us who spent our childhood rolling around in the back of the station wagon with no physical restraints and the back window rolled down enough to stick your head out.

What really took the cake, however, was the fact that our legislators tabled efforts this week to require our teenagers to notify us if they want to get an abortion. The logic behind this is beyond me. The fact that abortion is legal at all is enough to make you scratch your head. We live in a state where legislation is in effect to save young lives from injury and death in car accidents. At the same time we have legislation in place which permits the death of unborn children, and even encourages it, by making it possible for teenagers to keep their parents in the dark if they decide to get an abortion.

I know there are a lot of people who will argue that abortion doesn't involve taking a life. But there are just as many people who say that it does. And it is interesting that drunk drivers who kill pregnant women are often charged with two counts of manslaughter, not one. The same is true of those who murder women who are "with child".

At any rate, if we are going to err so much on the side of safety to protect children in car seats up to age 8, should we not err on the side of safety to protect the unborn? I just don't get it.

Some will say that we don't want to interfere with people's rights to choose. However, I don't have the right to choose whether or not to put my 6-year-old in a car seat. If I did, I can assure you, I wouldn't. But I must abide by the law the state has passed to protect 8-year-olds in cars. Why, though, should it be a matter of choice to commit an act which will certainly take a life (abortion) and not a matter of choice to commit an act which may only possibly save a life (using a car seat)? It seems we are lacking in logic and wisdom.

The prophet Isaiah said, "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" (Isaiah 5:20-21).

I think we are in need of a greater sense of wisdom if we are to thrive as a society. Not man's wisdom, but the wisdom of God. To get that wisdom we must first fear Him, for the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10). Once we do that we must exercise the wisdom God has given us. "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy", (James 3:17). That's the kind of society I'd like to see. If we seek wisdom from above it's the kind of society we can have. And maybe, just maybe, I could put my 6-year-old back in the center of our back seat, while unborn children would get the protection they deserve.