

Stand to Reason 2001

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*Making Abortion Unthinkable: The Art of Pro-Life Persuasion*

I. Introduction

a. 4 things to do:

- i. restore meaning to the word abortion,
- ii. simplify the issue,
- iii. offer an argument,
- iv. refute the rhetoric of the other side.

b. What is the pro-life view?

- i. Elective Abortion unjustly takes the life of a defenseless human being.

1. No government should ever allow abortion to take place.

c. Sound argument – science, philosophy and moral common sense

d. Opposing views – flawed reasoning, emotional appeals.

II. Restore meaning to the word Abortion

a. Move from abstract to concrete

b. The word abortion has lost its meaning for most Americans

- i. *Time* Magazine: AIDS in Africa: Look at the pictures. Read the words. Then try not to care. Pictures, story, respond
- ii. We think and learn visually

c. Use images – we are visual learners

- i. Pictures influence our emotions
- ii. Nazi holocaust – what image?

1. A copy of *Schindler's List* was donated to every high school in America, public and private

- a. Even though nudity and violence: "These scenes are critical to an accurate portrayal of the holocaust."

2. Eisenhower did not see the death camps. Once he did, he wanted as many GIs as possible to see them so they knew what they were fighting against.

iii. Civil rights movement

iv. Abortion – pro-life protests

- v. Let truthful images work for us rather than abstract ones working against us.
  - vi. Abortion is most common procedure – not on discovery channel.
  - vii. Harder Truth video dropped support for partial birth abortion from 33% to 22%.
  - viii. Forces pro-aborts to defend killing babies.
  - ix. Pictures: manipulative or educational? Clarify or distort?
  - x. Anti-smoking and animal rights groups use them. Let's be consistent and intellectually honest.
  - xi. Why do the pictures upset people? Deeply offensive. If we can't stand to look at it, perhaps we shouldn't tolerate it.
  - xii. 2 mistakes in using images
    - 1. Springing them on unsuspecting audience
    - 2. Don't use them at all
  - xiii. Not to condemn but clarify
  - d. People are moved by stories more than facts
    - i. President Clinton and partial birth abortions – 3 women
      - 1. Did not justify, no scientific evidence
      - 2. Offered stories in place of a case
    - ii. Pro-abortion lobby knows that if we stick to the facts, we win. They side track us with stories of people who are benefitted.
  - e. We just want difficult problems to go away.
    - i. 48% of Americans want it to just go away.
    - ii. Killing the child rather than taking personal responsibility for a human being.
    - iii. Problem of old age “just goes away” with euthanasia.
      - 1. Killing an innocent person.
- III. Simplify the issue
- a. Not about choice, privacy, poverty, bodily rights, or rape and incest.
  - b. Can I kill this?
  - c. What is it?
    - i. Roach or spider: OK
    - ii. Neighbor's child: no
  - d. We must know what we are killing before we decide if it is moral or not.
  - e. If not human, then no justification is necessary.

- f. If human, no justification is adequate.
- g. Non-viable mass of tissue, part of the woman's body, potential human.
- h. In the way: is this a reason to kill any other human being?
- i. What is the unborn?
- j. How should we treat innocent human beings who are in the way and defenseless?
- k. Some may attach complexity to this rather simple issue.
  - i. Agonizing decision, opinion is divided,
- l. Privacy – Do we allow parents to abuse their children because they do it in the privacy of their own homes?
  - i. Real issue is: What are the unborn?
    1. We see that invasion of privacy is OK if someone else's welfare is at stake.
    2. If human, deserves the same protection of other children.
- m. Freedom to choose – right – yours end where my rights begin.
  - i. Am I free to smash your car with a bat?
  - ii. All choices depend on what kind of choice we have in mind.
  - iii. Can we ever harm another for our own convenience, benefit?
  - iv. If human, we don't have the freedom to kill her.
- n. Rape
  - i. Devastating
  - ii. Why should the child pay with his own life for his father's crime?
  - iii. After the rapist is caught, can the woman shoot him for her own emotional relief?
    1. If she can't kill the guilty party, why should she be able to kill the innocent party?
  - iv. Rape is less than 1% of all abortions. Ask the objector to help us fight all other abortions.
  - v. If no, then rape is not the issue.
  - vi. Can we kill people who remind us of a traumatic event?
  - vii. If human, the unborn can't be killed because she is a reminder of the traumatic event
  - viii. Church must do all we can to comfort and support the mother.

- o. Back-alley abortions
    - i. Should the law be faulted for making the killing of an innocent child risky?
    - ii. Bank robbing is dangerous. Should we make it legal?
    - iii. Drive-by shootings are dangerous. High speeds, hanging out of the car, using firearms. Should they be made legal?
    - iv. Illegal abortions are not the real issue.
  - p. Can't afford it
    - i. "Trot out a Toddler"
    - ii. If human, can't kill her
  - q. Can't force someone to be a parent
    - i. If human, the woman is already a parent.
    - ii. Can we let other parents escape responsibility by killing the child?
    - iii. Made her choice to risk the responsibilities of parenthood when she had sex.
  - r. Life of the mother
    - i. Argument is elective abortion, not abortion for medical purposes or spontaneous abortions, ie miscarriage.
    - ii. What is the unborn? If human, deserves all the care and respect of the mother.
    - iii. Pathology – ectopic pregnancy
    - iv. Always use: Can I kill this? What is the unborn?
  - s. No need to use slick rhetoric, slogans, loaded words, ridicule or name-calling. This misleads and does not persuade the critic.
- IV. With each objection, ask: is this really an important part of your view.
- a. If no, why did they bring it up in the first place?
  - b. If yes, If I show you it isn't true, would you abandon this point?
- V. Moral logic – foundation, walls, roof
- a. Moral claim – it is wrong to kill a human being
  - b. Factual claim – abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being
  - c. Moral conclusion – therefore, abortion is wrong
- VI. The scientific case
- a. Metabolism, growth, reaction to stimuli – end at abortion.
    - i. Abortion kills the unborn, whatever it is. So what is it?
  - b. Not a Mass of tissue or part of the woman's body. Has its own DNA distinct from the mother and father at the moment of conception. Human DNA, not a cat or dog.

- c. Zygote – one-celled unborn is different from every other cell in the mother’s body.
- d. Separate brain and central nervous system
- e. Different blood type
- f. Complete human being from the moment she is alive.
  - i. Will take on many forms
    - 1. What are it’s parents?
- g. Abortion kills a living human being
  - i. We know exactly when life begins.
  - ii. This is not about what a woman can do with her own body.
  - iii. The unborn fetus is a full human being from the moment of conception.
- h. Appearance – Mary Tyler Moore
  - i. Circus performer
- i. Level of development – trot out a toddler
- j. Environment – 8 inch trip
- k. Complete dependency – toddler in the woods alone will die

VII. The philosophical case

- a. No difference between a human being and a human person.
- b. The unborn is living, not part of its mother, human being,
- c. Unborn child differs from an infant in only four ways: SLED
  - i. Size
  - ii. Level of development
  - iii. Environment
  - iv. Degree of dependency
- d. None of these is relevant to the child’s status as a valuable human being.
- e. Ask what are the criteria for personhood.
- f. Can you be human and not a person?
  - i. Trot out a toddler
- g. A woman can do whatever she wants with her body.
  - i. Not really in this country or any civilized nation.
  - ii. Can’t harm others
  - iii. Parents can’t abandon children to take a vacation “with their own bodies.”
  - iv. The law restricts what we do with our bodies when we are a threat to another person

1. Therefore, a woman cannot do whatever she wants with her body.
  - v. The unborn is not the mother's body
    1. Do you have a penis? No
    2. Could your unborn's body have a penis? Yes
    3. Not your body
- VIII. Mike McConnell – brain waves – teleology
  - a. Freezability
- IX. Answering objections
  - a. Five common flaws in pro-abortion rhetoric.
    - i. Attack pro-lifer
    - ii. Assumes unborn are not valuable human beings
    - iii. Confuse objective and subjective
    - iv. Confuse function with being
      1. Unconscious when we sleep