

The Pregnancy Center of Gadsden County

Merry Christmas from
Your PCGC family!



To Quincy or Bust!

21 N. Love St. Quincy, FL 32351

How to Defend Your Pro-Life Views ~in five minutes or less

By Scott Klusendorf

Suppose that you have just five minutes to graciously defend your pro-life beliefs with friends or classmates. Can you do it with rational arguments? What should you say? And how can you simplify the abortion issue for those who think it's hopelessly complex?

Here's how to succeed in three easy steps:

1) Clarify the issue. Pro-life advocates contend that elective abortion unjustly takes the life of a defenseless human being. This simplifies the abortion controversy by focusing public attention on just one question: Is the unborn a member of the human family? If so, killing him or her to benefit others is a serious moral wrong. It treats the distinct human being, with his or her own inherent moral worth, as nothing more than a disposable instrument. Conversely, if the unborn are not human, killing them for any reason requires no more justification than having a tooth pulled.

In other words, arguments based on "choice" or "privacy" miss the point entirely. Would anyone that you know support a mother killing her toddler in the name of "choice and who decides?" Clearly, if the unborn are human, like toddlers, we shouldn't kill them in the name of choice anymore than we would a toddler. Again, this debate is about just one question: What is the unborn? At this point, some may object that your comparisons are not fair—that killing a fetus is morally different than killing a toddler. Ah, but that's the issue, isn't it? Are the unborn, like toddlers, members of the human family? That is the one issue that matters. (See the "Toddler Tactics" article for more on this.)

Remind your critics that you are vigorously "pro-choice" when it comes to women choosing a number of moral goods. You support a woman's right to choose her own doctor, to choose her own husband, to choose her own job, and to choose her own religion, to name a few. These are among the many choices that you fully support for women. But some choices are wrong, like killing innocent human beings simply because they are in the way and cannot defend themselves.¹ No, we shouldn't be allowed to choose that.

2) Defend your pro-life position with science and

philosophy. Scientifically, we know that from the earliest stages of development, the unborn are distinct, living, and whole human beings. Leading embryology books confirm this.² For example, Keith L. Moore & T.V.N.

Persaud write, "A zygote is the beginning of a new human being. Human development begins at fertilization, the process during which a male gamete or sperm ... unites with a female gamete or oocyte ... to form a single cell called a zygote. This highly specialized, totipotent cell marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual."³ Prior to his abortion advocacy, former Planned Parenthood President Dr. Alan Guttmacher was perplexed that anyone, much less a medical doctor, would question this. "This all seems so simple and evident that it is difficult to picture a time when it wasn't part of the common knowledge," he wrote in his book *Life in the Making*.⁴

Philosophically, we can say that embryos are less developed than newborns (or, for that matter, toddlers) but this difference is not morally significant in the way abortion advocates need it to be. Consider the claim that the immediate capacity for self-awareness bestows value on human beings. Notice that this is not an argument, but an arbitrary assertion. Why is some development needed? And why is this particular degree of development (i.e., higher brain function) decisive rather than another? These are questions that abortion advocates do not adequately address.

As Stephen Schwarz points out, there is no morally significant difference between the embryo that you once were and the adult that you are today. Differences of size, level of development, environment, and degree of dependency are not relevant such that we can say that you had no rights as an embryo but you do have rights today. Think of the acronym **SLED** as a helpful reminder of these non-essential differences:⁵

Size: True, embryos are smaller than newborns and adults, but why is that relevant? Do we really want to say that large people are more human than small ones? Men are generally larger than women, but that doesn't mean that they deserve more rights. Size doesn't equal value.

Level of development: True, embryos and fetuses are less developed than the adults they'll one day become. But again, why is this relevant? Four year-old girls are less developed

than 14 year-old ones. Should older children have more rights than their younger siblings? Some people say that self-awareness makes one human. But if that is true, newborns do not qualify as

valuable human beings. Six-week old infants lack the immediate capacity for performing human mental functions, as do the reversibly comatose, the sleeping, and those with Alzheimer's Disease.

Environment: Where you are has no bearing on who you are. Does your value change when you cross the street or roll over in bed? If not, how can a journey of eight inches down the birth-canal suddenly change the essential nature of the

unborn from non-human to human? If the unborn are not already human, merely changing their location can't make them valuable.

Degree of Dependency: If viability makes us human, then all those who depend on insulin or kidney medication are not valuable and we may kill them. Conjoined twins who share blood type and bodily systems also have no right to life.

In short, it's far more reasonable to argue that although humans differ immensely with respect to talents, accomplishments, and degrees of development, they are nonetheless equal because they share a common human nature.

3) Challenge your listeners to be intellectually honest. Ask the tough questions. When critics say that birth makes the unborn human, ask, "How does a mere change of location from inside the womb to outside the womb change the essential nature of the unborn?" If they say that brain development or self-awareness makes us human, ask if they would agree with Joseph Fletcher that those with an IQ below 20 or perhaps 40 should be declared non-persons? If not, why not? True, some people will ignore the scientific and philosophic case you present for the pro-life view and argue for abortion based on self-interest. That is the lazy way out. Remind your critics that if we care about truth, we will courageously follow the facts wherever they lead, no matter what the cost to our own self-interests.

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The S.L.E.D. Test

Pray for us?

A Weekly Prayer Request



Sunday- Pray for pregnant women who have chosen life. Pray for health them and their babies, that the Lord will give them peace and assurance of His love and protection and that churches will partner with PCGC and commit to helping women in crisis pregnancies carry their babies to term by helping them during and after the pregnancy. (1 John 3:17, 18, Ps. 20:1, 2)

Monday -Pray that the Holy Spirit will awaken all Christians to the truth about abortion and the church will stand for life with boldness. (Eph. 4:11-15, Prov. 24:10-12)

Tuesday-Pray that women tempted by abortion will be drawn to crisis pregnancy centers and other places that can provide positive alternatives. Pray that, in His mercy, God would steer these women away from people and agencies who would counsel them to abort. (Ps.

1:1-3) *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." ~1 Cor 15:58*

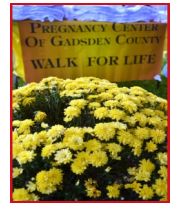
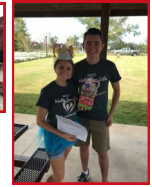
Wednesday- Pray for childless couples who long to adopt and for adoption to gain acceptance in our culture so that birthmothers will consider it in situations where it would be best for their children. (See examples of Moses, Esther and even Jesus by Joseph. Eph.1:5, Rom 8:7, 2 Cor. 1:3-5)

Thursday- Pray for the Board, staff and volunteers of PCGC to walk according to their calling. (2 Thess. 1:11, 12)

Friday- Pray for the returning of Fathers and Mighty Men to our society; for their hearts to be turned towards their families and submitted to God and His plan for their lives. (Malachi 4:6, Joel 3:9)

Saturday- Pray for the millions of women who have had abortions and who suffer the physical and emotional consequences. Pray that our churches will partner with PCGC to offer forgiveness and love to them. (Psa. 34:18)

2017 Walk for Life



We had a great time with wonderful folks at our annual Walk for Life. Together we raised over \$27,000! We are so grateful to all who participated in raising these funds which go toward PCGC's lifesaving programs. Because of you, we are able to continue to offer hope and healing to many young women and families in our community. Thank you!

Top Churches:

1. Pastor Randy Ross, Tallavana Community Church
2. Pastor Eric Erskine, Havana Baptist Church
3. Pastor Todd Hill, Grace Baptist Church

Top Walkers:

1. Rick and Kimberly Nelson
2. Rob and Alicia Longshore
3. Natalie Alday



Please remember to use our wonderful Corporate Sponsors when you are seeking professional services this year. These are truly businesses that give back to our community. You can find the full list on the back page of this newsletter.



With love,
PCGC family and clients

We Could Sure Use Your Help

One of the outstanding characteristics about the ministry of PCGC is that we fit hand in glove with the mission of local churches.

Our mission is to reach women and families facing crisis pregnancies, sharing the love of Jesus Christ. For those who are open, our desire is that they become active in a local church. In other words, we are an outreach of local churches across our area.

You can play an important role-To be most effective however, we need members of our local churches to be active in this ministry in all types of ways. For starters, we need liaisons in each church—people who keep their own congregations up to speed on what is happening here at the center.

When we put out a call for volunteers, it helps to have someone share the necessary information. And when a special event pops up like the Baby Bottle Campaign or our Walk for Life, we work with our church liaisons to get the word out.

How much time? We're all pressed for time, and we understand that. Our church liaisons—like our other volunteers—aren't going to be overburdened.

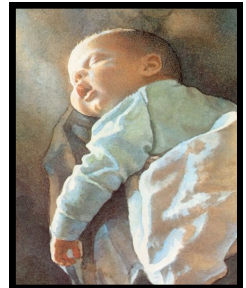
We will stay in touch, make sure you have all of the tools you need to make things go smoothly and keep your time commitment to a minimum.

Getting started-If you are interested in being our contact in your fellowship, let us know. Call Melody at 539-1222 and she will set up a time when the two of you can meet and take a look at the details. Interested? Now is the time to call! Our church liaison network is growing, and we would love for you to be a part of it!

Dashing Through the Year

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 1/21/18

PCGC begins our Change for LIFE -Baby Bottle Drive in January, on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. Equip your church to be a part of this lifesaving, life-changing mission by assigning a church LIAISON to contact PCGC and coordinate a Sanctity of Human Life Sunday event. We have everything you need to take part in this wonderful opportunity, including baby bottles, bulletin inserts, short promotional videos, posters and even speakers! Call PCGC today to get your free resources and stand for life on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday!



Abortion Recovery Assistance Group Starting in February

PCGC will be offering an ARA group study in February. Groups will meet one evening a week for this in-depth study, focusing on healing after abortion. Please call 850-539-1221 to register or get more information for yourself or your church.

Save the Date - Celebration of Life Banquet Thursday, March 8th 2018

Mark your calendars for PCGC's Annual Spring Fundraising Banquet. You can expect another wonderful evening of delicious food and fun fundraising for this lifesaving ministry! The funds raised at our Celebration of Life Banquet are vital to our operating budget- accounting for over 50% of our annual budget. Please consider joining us on March 6th to celebrate life and partner with us financially.

Looking for great local businesses? Here's your list.

Remember to say *Thank You* from PCGC!

Walk for Life 2017 Corporate Sponsors



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The Pregnancy Center of Gadsden County is a non-profit organization dedicated to ministering to men and women facing planned and unplanned pregnancies, offering the education and the resources needed to make life-affirming decisions while sharing the love of Jesus Christ.
 All services offered are free of charge. PCGC is supported by churches, individuals and businesses who have a heart for the unborn and those facing crisis pregnancy.
 FEIN 45-3687829
 A copy of the official registration information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) toll-free within the state or visiting www.floridareg.com. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Thank you for supporting PCGC!



The Pregnancy Center of Gadsden County
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