

## **You Can Make the Case for Life Student Notes**

To get copies of all of the sources and citations used in this presentation, send an email to [mjordan@speakerforlife.com](mailto:mjordan@speakerforlife.com) and in the subject line, write Resources, and I will provide you with this evidence.

Introductory Comments:

### I. Where to begin: The Case for Life as a Syllogism

- P1: It is wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being.
- P2: Abortion intentionally kills an innocent human being.
- C: Therefore, abortion is wrong.

## **Session One: The Scientific Case for Life**

### I. Are the unborn human beings?

A. What abortion clinics and many people say.

B. What science says:

1. Embryology
2. Geneticists
3. Doctors
4. Planned Parenthood

## II. Does abortion kill a human being?

### A. Abortion clinics try to hide the facts by using terms such as:

1. Embryo and Fetus
2. Terminate the pregnancy
3. Evacuate the uterine contents
4. Gently remove "pregnancy tissue"

### B. But experts disagree:

1. Embryo and Fetus are just arbitrary labels for stages of human life.
2. Planned Parenthood
3. Doctors
4. Abortion-choice advocates
  - a. Camille Paglia
  - b. David Boonin
4. The visual evidence

## **Session Two: The Ethical Case for Life**

### I. Review

A. The limits of science and the need for philosophy.

B. Science Review

C. The "Substance View" of human development

### II. What makes us equal?

### III. The First Big Shift -- from "human being" to "person."

A. Why do they do it?

B. What standards do they use to justify the shift? S.L.E.D.

1. Size

2. Level of Development

3. Environment

4. Degree of dependency

C. Response: Those standards aren't limited to the unborn

1. Size
2. Level of Development
3. Environment
4. Degree of dependency

There is no morally significant distinction between the embryo you used to be and the person you are now that would justify killing you then, but not now.

IV. The Second Big Shift -- from personhood to Exceptions due to Origins of Conception

A. Standards used: Rape and incest

1. Shouldn't have to carry a rapist's child
2. Shouldn't have a constant reminder of the rape

B. Responses

1. Be sympathetic
2. Circumstances of conception don't change the nature of the unborn.
3. Counting people, assigning blame.
4. Punish rapists to the full extent of the law.
5. Thought experiments:

## V. The Third Big Shift from means of conception to exceptions due to the impacts of pregnancy

### A. Common Exception Arguments

1. My Body, My Choice (bodily autonomy)
2. Threat to the mother's life
3. Threat to the mother's physical health
4. Threat to the psychological well-being of the mother
5. Threat to the economic well-being of the mother
6. Social stigma that attaches to unwed motherhood
7. The age of the mother: she is too young/old
8. Fetal abnormality -- stress associated with it
9. The unborn is an undesired gender
10. The unborn child is unwanted
11. The planet is overpopulated

## B. Responses to Common Exception Arguments

1. My Body, My Choice (bodily autonomy)
  - a. Not only the woman's body
  
  - b. Thalidomide/Crack Cocaine
  
2. Threat to the mother's life
  - a. Legitimate
  - b. Not "intentional"
  - c. Focus is on promoting life, not ending it
  
3. Threat to the mother's physical health
  
4. Threat to the psychological well-being of the mother
  
5. Threat to the economic well-being of the mother
  
6. Social stigma that attaches to unwed motherhood
  
7. The age of the mother: she is too young/old
  
8. Fetal abnormality -- stress associated with it
  
9. The unborn is an undesired gender
  
10. The unborn child is unwanted
  
11. The planet is overpopulated -- Jaqueline Kasun: *The War Against Population*.

#### IV. The Final Shift: Unmasking Abortion Extremists.

1. Advocates admit it is a human life.
2. Don't care if it is a human life
3. Abortion on demand and without apology
4. Arguing for infanticide and involuntary euthanasia

#### V. Answering questions about "punishing women for abortion."

A. The objective

B. Response? Ask Questions.

C. Conclusion:

1. Abortionists
2. Women

## **Session Three: The Biblical Case for Life**

Intro: Story of the Sidewalk Counselor:

I. Problem: Church is doing a bad job communicating God's truth about abortion

A. Alan Guttmacher stats on religious affiliation of women seeking abortions.

B. Survey research on Christians referring for abortions

II. Solution: Inoculating the Church by teaching the Case for Life

A. Christians need to know the scientific and moral case for life

B. Christians need to know the Biblical case for life

III. The Biblical Case for Life

A. God's intentions toward humans

1. Human beings are image bearers of God

2. God forms us in the womb and knows us

3. We are to "be fruitful and multiply"

4. Children are both gift and reward

B. God condemns the killing of the innocent

1. Murder of human beings is forbidden

2. Killing of children an abomination associated with idol worship

a. Molech worship then

b. Molech worship now

C. Blood guilt extends both to the perpetrator and the passive bystanders

D. Abortion is not "loving our neighbor."

#### IV. Common Objections

A. Miscarriage makes God/Nature a murderer

B. God doesn't see the unborn as equally valuable to adults

#### V. Responses

A. Miscarriage

1. God's jurisdiction

2. Human's forbidden to intentionally take innocent life on their own initiative

B. Value

1. Hebrew word "yeled"

2. Death is unintentional

3. God punishes even the accidental loss of life

## **Session 4: Abortion Choice Philosophy Puts Everyone at Risk**

I. The danger of an arbitrary definition of who counts as a valuable human life.

II. Atkinson's Analysis

III. We are all at risk

A. Infanticide

B. Involuntary Euthanasia

IV. Responding to "It could never happen here."

## **Session Five: What Can We Do?**

### I. What authentic pro-life people do

1. Speak up
2. Rescue

### II. How to practically speak up

1. Continue to study
2. Teach what you have learned
3. Use your voice to advocate
4. Sponsor debates

### III. How to practically rescue

1. Pray
2. Volunteer with your PRC
3. Give to your PRC

### IV. Take the next Big Step

1. Applied Bioethics training -- or Pro-Life Speaker Training
2. Have teens attend Summit
3. Consider becoming a missionary for the unborn through LTI
4. Consider a career in PRC work