



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Getting to the Real Question



Education: A boy approaches his dad with a question: “Can I kill this?” Of course, the answer will depend on what “it” is. If it is a spider – sure. But if it is the neighbor’s kitten – No! The neighbor owns him and cares about him. The real question regarding abortion is “What is the preborn?” If we believe in equal human rights, is the preborn included in that group? What is it about people that

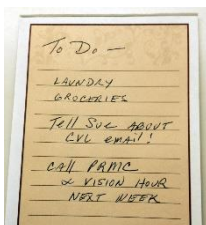
gives us all equal rights? We are all so different! Does it make sense that there is something the same about us that give us all equal rights? If the preborn child shares in whatever that is, then they should also have an equal right to life, right? So, what is it that we all share that gives us equal rights? Whatever it is would have to be the same for newborns and adults, but not animals. It can’t be anything that varies in degree, like size, or intelligence, because then bigger or smarter people would have more rights than others. People might say that the preborn is not a person because it can’t think or is not self-aware. What do they mean by thinking? Perhaps a mental process to make a decision. Well, animals can do that – they decide where to go, when to run away, etc. And it is generally agreed that newborn infants are not self-aware, but elephants are.

The preborn child differs from older humans in four ways: **Size, Level of development, Environment, and Dependency.** (Remembered with the acronym SLED.) If we agree that bigger people don’t have more rights than smaller people, and teens don’t have a greater right to life than toddlers, then difference in size or level of development shouldn’t mean that the preborn child has any less right to life than a newborn or a toddler. The preborn is inside the womb, and other people are outside, but are you less of a person if you are under water? Does something magically change when a child is born that suddenly gives him human rights? So that leaves dependency. Yes, the preborn child is dependent on the mother, but so is a newborn dependent on someone to feed and protect him. Some adults are dependent on insulin shots or dialysis to stay alive. So, none of these differences should deprive the preborn child of an equal right to life. The thing we all share equally is simply our humanity.

Taken from materials in ERI’s Equipped for Life course.



Prayer: Dear Jesus, please call many loving individuals to train themselves to speak effectively to their pro-choice friends, family members, and co-workers. Help them to be well prepared to confidently speak about abortion and other life issues. Help them to always show love and respect, and to refrain from judging others who have been misled or deceived about abortion. Please use Christian Voices for Life, Equal Rights Institute and Live Action as your instruments to spread the truth about abortion and help more and more of our community come to understand the evil of abortion and the terrible harm it does in our society.



Action: Learn more about the resources available to help you become more effective in defending the pro-life position. [Equal Rights Institute](#) trains pro-life advocates to think clearly, reason honestly, and argue persuasively. [Online training](#), with short videos arranged in modules, is available for \$49, and you can also subscribe to free email tips and regular podcasts. [Equal Rights Institute](#) and [Live Action](#) both offer, at no cost, a series of brief videos (ERI also provides the text) on answering popular pro-choice arguments.