



Christian Voices for Life *Wednesday Word*

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Why Find Common Ground with a Pro-choice Friend?



Education: You've just met a new guy at work. It seems you have a lot in common and go out to lunch a few times. One day the topic of abortion comes up and he says he's pro-choice. How do you respond? Do you identify yourself as being pro-life because life clearly begins at conception and abortion kills an innocent human being? While your statement is true, it would set the two of you on opposite sides of a national debate and perhaps lead him to be defensive of his position.

Those who have lots of experience talking to students on college campuses (Justice for All and Equal Rights Institute) find that it is much more productive to first find common ground with your pro-choice friend. Perhaps you can ask if he believes that abortion should be legal through all nine months of pregnancy. Most Americans will say no, so you can ask why he thinks late term abortion should be illegal. Perhaps it is because when the baby could possibly survive outside the womb, he or she is clearly a person with human rights. So, you can agree with him that a well-developed baby deserves protection. You can then ask where he draws a line between when abortion should be legal and when it should be illegal. If the well-developed child deserves protection, why does the slightly less developed child not deserve protection? If human rights depend on the level of development, does that mean that a teenager has a greater right to life or is "more of a person" than an infant or a toddler? So, the conversation is more about why abortion is wrong at least under some conditions, and how that reason applies to other instances, rather than a debate where each person is saying "I'm right and you're wrong."

Other questions that can discover common ground include what they think about abortion as birth control (women having many abortions), and whether fathers should be allowed to decide the fate of their pre-born children. In many states, a father who kills his unborn child can be convicted of murder, but if the mother chooses to abort, it is legal. It is as if the mother's opinion determines whether the child deserves the protection of the law or not.

For more on this topic, see the free e-book [Common Ground Without Compromise by Stephen Wagner](#).



Prayer: Dear Lord, please help me to be open to discussion of abortion with my friends and acquaintances. Help me to treat others with respect, be willing to listen to their point of view, and try to establish common ground at the beginning of our talk. Help me to prepare myself to be an effective speaker in defense of life by knowing the relevant facts. Help me to be a voice for truth in a world where Satan's lies have taken hold and are widely accepted. Give me the courage to speak up for life even when it is not the popular opinion of the people I am with. Give me the courage to even bring up the subject to find out which of my contacts have been deceived by the pro-choice rhetoric, so that I can help lead them to the truth.



Action: Pray for the courage to allow God to use you to become a voice for life. To get started, read "Read Stephen Wagner's [Common Ground Without Compromise](#) to understand the importance of building common ground and how to do it. Another good reference is [What to Say When](#) by Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen. Subscribe to [Live Action](#) emails to keep up with pro-life news not covered by the mainstream media, and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.