Christian Voices for Life

Wednesday Word

Prayer

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Action

What will He Hear When He Hears Your Reply?

Education: You've just met a new co-worker. It seems you have a lot in common and have talked in the break room a few times. One day the topic of abortion comes up. "Women can be in situations where having a baby would ruin her life. I think it's a woman's right to end her pregnancy." He seems to want to support women in difficult situations who want to make their problems go away by having an abortion. How do you respond?

1. But she's not just ending a pregnancy, she's killing her baby. Life begins at conception. Killing a baby in the womb is just wrong and having a baby is a gift from God, it's not going to ruin her life."
   He hears: You're wrong, I'm right. I don't understand why anyone could think a baby would be a serious problem.
2. I know women can be in difficult situations, and they would just want the pregnancy to go away. If they feel they just can't face the situation alone, abortion may seem like their only choice. But many women don't know that help is available for them; they don't have to face the situation alone. Without that support they have the abortion. But while abortion takes away the problems that having the baby might bring, abortion brings its own problems. They very often come to really regret that decision, and it can change their life in very negative ways. I think abortion is wrong because killing a child within the womb is wrong, but also because it is so harmful to women.
   He hears: I understand, but abortion harms women too. Help is available for them to give them hope that they can handle their situation. I care about both the child and the mother.

   He might then ask about what help is available, how abortion affects them, etc.

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 Stephen Wagner's *Common Ground Without Compromise* to understand the importance of building common ground and how to do it. Other good references are *What to Say When* and *What to Say When 2*, by Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen. Equal Rights Institute is also a great source for an index of blogs, podcasts and videos discussing a number of issues that may come up in discussions with pro-choice people.