

# A Living Room Conversation

## Part 1: Morality and Legality

GRACE FONTENOT'S MONTHLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2018



Dear Friends and Family,

“Will you talk to me about abortion!?! Please just tell me about it!” This was not what I expected to hear when I walked in the door of my host home on a recent JFA trip. My hosts were out on a date, and they had informed me that they would have their new babysitter staying with their kids that evening, and that she’d let me into the house. The kids were already in bed when I knocked on the door, and their babysitter, “Heidi,” answered. She turned out to be a sweet, friendly young woman, and a student at a local university.

Heidi and I hit it off immediately. We began chatting, and pretty soon she asked me why I was visiting the area, so I explained to her the work that I do with Justice For All. I told her that through speaking and mentoring, I help train pro-life advocates to defend their beliefs in a way that balances truth and love in every conversation. She then enthusiastically said, “Will you talk to me? Will you give me one of your talks?” I was happily surprised, and we sat down in the cozy living room where I then asked her if she’d share her thoughts on abortion. Our conversation went something like this:

**Heidi:** I believe that little life has a soul and I don’t think it’s my place to “play God” by ending that life through abortion. But I don’t think that I can allow my religious beliefs to limit the choices of others who don’t share them when it comes to making public policies. So I can’t say that I think abortion should be made illegal.

**Grace:** I understand your concern for the freedom of others, and not wanting to force people to live by religious standards they don’t hold. Can I ask you a question, though? I’ve talked to a lot of people about abortion, and I’ve noticed that people have different reasons for why they hold their views. Why are you pro-life?

**Heidi:** I think because I’ve always wanted to be a mom. My mom has always said I was born to be a mother. I was raised pro-life, but like I said, I don’t think I can tell others that they can’t get an abortion.



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WEB: [WWW.JFAWEB.ORG](http://WWW.JFAWEB.ORG)

EMAIL: [GRACE.FONTENOT@JFAWEB.ORG](mailto:GRACE.FONTENOT@JFAWEB.ORG)

OFFICE: 316-683-6426

**Grace:** Do you believe that there are some things mentioned in the Bible, which we believe as Christians, that also should be laws? For example, one of the Ten Commandments is “Thou shalt not kill.” Do you think we should make murder *legal* because the law against it may be influenced by a Christian belief?

**Heidi:** No, of course not! You’re right, that law makes sense for everyone even though it’s also a Christian belief.

**Grace:** This may sound like a weird question to ask, but what is the definition of murder?

**Heidi:** It’s when you kill an innocent person... and if abortion kills a human being, then it must be murder!

Notice how I first built common ground with Heidi. I tried to identify with her discomfort about forcing others, by law, to comply with a belief system they don't currently hold. Because of this, Heidi felt heard and understood. After I built common ground, though, I raised an example of a law that coincides with our religious beliefs, but which can clearly be legally applied to all citizens regardless of religion. Heidi quickly recognized that outlawing abortion falls into this category. If abortion kills an innocent human being, it is not only morally wrong, but must be legally outlawed for everyone.

This was just the beginning of my conversation with Heidi. She was excited to keep talking, so she and I went on to discuss the biological case for the humanity of the unborn. We also discussed human equality, and the apparent conflict between women's rights and the rights of the unborn. In future newsletters I will share the details of the rest of our conversation, and give you more specific ideas about how to navigate your own conversations with others. Thank you for your ongoing support, which allows me to reach and equip people like Heidi.

For the sake of His sorrowful passion,

