



From Embryos to Eternity

Update from Jacob Burow - March 2013



A fetus is not more valuable than a pro-choice person. This means that I am concerned for the well-being of those who promote abortion as much as I am concerned for the life of the unborn. Abortion advocates who talk with me are not in the same physical danger as children in the womb who may be aborted, but their souls might be in a worse kind of danger. Therefore, I am always on the lookout for opportunities to turn a conversation toward God and the Gospel.

Mark, one of my students, and I were standing on the sidewalk at Georgia Tech next to the 18-foot-tall Justice For All Exhibit when he abruptly turned to flag down a passing student. The young student, Josh, was carrying a ukulele, so Mark casually asked him about it, and they began a conversation.

Soon Mark asked Josh what he thought about the exhibit. I listened as their conversation began to follow the patterns that we model and teach in the seminar. Mark made the point that the unborn are biologically whole human organisms. As the conversation began to move toward the philosophy of human value, Mark invited me to join the discussion.

“Yeah, I guess [the unborn] could be organisms. I just don’t see how they could have the same value that we have,” Josh said.

“Let me ask you this, Josh. Do you think we born humans on the campus of Georgia Tech deserve equal treatment?” I asked.

“Born humans? Yes, of course.”

“Why do you believe we should all be treated equally when we are all so different? What is it exactly that is the same about all of us?”

He thought hard. “You want me to say that it is because we are all human, right?”

I shrugged. “Do you see another fair way to explain equal rights? If we base our value on something like having a certain level of consciousness, then we may have to give guerillas and dolphins

the same rights that you and I have, but not give those rights to newborn humans. But I know that a human infant is more valuable than a dolphin. So the only way I can make sense of that is to say that our rights are not based on something that is different from person to person. Our rights must be based on what we all have in common, which is our humanity. Do you believe that humans are more



Mark and I converse with Josh at Georgia Tech.

valuable than animals?”

“Of course.”

Mark jumped back into the conversation and shared that he believed that God gave us special value by creating humans “in his image.” He then asked what Josh believed.

The conversation took an interesting turn as Josh shared that, although his dad was a pastor, he had always been an atheist. He told us that he only

became a Christian just after he first came to college. Immediately after his conversion he had been on fire, preaching to his friends, preaching to random strangers, and even debating with people online. But then he began to read books by atheists, and soon his belief in God was in crisis. Confused about what to believe, Josh had asked God to reveal himself, or to speak to him directly. Josh felt that God did not answer him, and he soon abandoned his fledgling faith.

I asked Josh if he thought God had to respond to his prayers in the way that he wanted. He admitted that God was not obligated to do that. I then asked if he had ever heard good evidence that Jesus actually rose from the dead, and he said that he had not. I laid out the case for the resurrection of Jesus, which Josh admitted was compelling and important to consider. He thanked us for not being overbearing and for really caring about what he thought. Mark and I prayed over Josh before sending him on his way.

I was struck by the simplicity and beauty of the way in which our conversation had begun, with Mark asking about Josh's ukulele, then talking about abortion for a few minutes. Before we knew it we were hearing about Josh's struggle to know God. I realized then that our conversation had been no accident. Please add your prayers for Josh to ours as he continues thinking through what we presented to him. Pray that he will earnestly seek God once again.

I just returned from Atlanta, Georgia where it felt like I ran a marathon of training seminars and outreach days. Next up I'll travel home to Bryan, Texas to do a small event at Blinn College. After that, I will go to Ft. Collins, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona in April.

Pray that my travels this spring will be safe and that God will bless our efforts in training good ambassadors for Christ. Thank you for all of your support and prayers! God bless,

Jacob Burow



Top: JFA Exhibit at GA Tech

Middle: Andrew Carlson, from College Station, TX, joined us for the GA Tech mission trip. Andrew is a good friend, a former JFA intern, and a current volunteer.

Bottom: I taught about human biology during one of our GA training seminars.