



# Blinn College

Update from Jacob Burow - May 2013



Michael, a student at Blinn College, walked by me rapidly. He glanced over his shoulder at our sign, let out a yelp of surprise, and whirled around to take a closer look.

“Oh, wow! Wow! Wow!” he exclaimed.

“Wow?” I asked.

“Yeah. Wow!” he said again. “This is not what I was expecting to see this morning.”

“What were you expecting?”

“I don’t know, but not this!”

“So, where would you draw the line on when human rights begin?” I asked.

“Now that ... well, I have no idea!”

This was the start of a terrific conversation I had a few weeks ago in Bryan, Texas. I had been standing beside a Justice For All sign which portrays life in the womb and asks when in human development do basic human rights begin. As I reveal the rest of this conversation, we will explore why I believe it went so well.

Paul told the Corinthians, “Therefore we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us. I urge you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20). An ambassador is a messenger or representative of his nation or his sovereign. As Christians we have a high calling to deliver to the world Jesus’s message of reconciliation.

Some ambassadors are more effective than others, so how can we be the best Christian ambassadors possible? I want to focus on three traits (as presented by Stand to Reason, STR.org) that we must possess if we want to be good Christian ambassadors.

## Knowledge

First, we need to possess knowledge of what



**Michael described himself as liberal, pro-choice, a Democrat, and an atheist.**

our sovereign thinks about the topic at hand so we can accurately represent him. Knowledge can also serve as a bridge to help connect us to our audience who need to hear what we know. As my conversation with Michael continued, I described the various stages of human development, and I defined an *organism* for him. He was glad to learn more

about the development of the fetus. I also asked Michael questions along the way to gather additional knowledge about his views.

## Wisdom

Second, we need to have the wisdom to know *when* to share our knowledge and when to keep our mouths shut. Michael and I also talked about other issues that come up in discussions about abortion such as women living in poverty, the horrible trauma of rape, and the challenges of dealing with deformed children. In all of these situations, I gently helped Michael see that the central question we needed to answer was whether or not the unborn is a human being. I was always quick to listen, and then carefully

asked the right questions to guide the conversation in a productive direction.

### Character

Finally, a good ambassador must be humble. He needs to be willing to learn, open to new ideas, and ready to admit when he is wrong. One thing I emphasized to Michael was that I love truth to such an extent that I really want to find out what beliefs I hold that are not true, and then quit believing them. If the only people I talk to are people who agree with me, then I will not likely discover my false beliefs. Michael agreed with this approach to life and said that he wanted to discover truth as well.

Michael and I then talked about human value and where it comes from. He stated that it was a religious question and that religion was too complicated to figure out. He shared that he had grown up in Christianity but later rejected it in favor of atheism. When I asked if I could try to simplify the issue, he busted up laughing.

“Seriously, Michael. Have I said anything so far that was unreasonable?” I said.

“Okay. You’re right, everything you’ve said has made sense. So lay it on me.”



**I began talking to this girl because I thought she was someone else. Awkward!**

**After explaining she was not who I thought, she asked if I wanted to argue about abortion. I said “No, but I’d like to hear your thoughts.” We talked at length about abortion, gay rights, and religion.**

I began making a case for an intelligent designer, and then I made a case for Jesus having actually risen from the dead, pointing out that if he did rise, then I should listen to what he has to say about my relationship with God. Michael pondered everything I said, and then he reflected back to me that he had never heard a reasonable argument for Christianity before.

Michael did not immediately change any of his ideas to my knowledge. So does this mean that I failed? Sometimes people feel that if they can’t change a person’s mind, then they have failed. But I think this sets the standard higher than Jesus did. Consider the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-27. The rich man asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, and after hearing the answer, he walked away sad. Did Jesus say the wrong thing? Was he not wise enough or humble enough? Of course not. Jesus represented God’s truth to the rich man, and then let the man make a decision.

Our job is no different. I was a faithful ambassador to Michael because I used knowledge, wisdom, and humility to clearly convey the truth about abortion and about Christianity. The decision is his.

Michael said something interesting to me before he left. He said, “You have really got me thinking. I personally defend life. To me it is a big deal. The fetus is definitely alive. But I am still pro-choice, so now I can’t make sense of my own position. I am not the sort of guy who can live with inconsistency, so I am going to have to figure this out.”

Michael has some other things to figure out as well concerning his beliefs about God. Please pray for Michael as he ponders these important questions. Thank you all so much for your prayers and financial support which make it possible for me to be a full time Christian ambassador for life.

*Jacob Burow*