“If I Support Human Rights, Then I Need to Support the Unborn’s Rights Too.”

Is it possible to make significant progress with someone who considers herself "super pro-choice?” In previous letters I’ve shared stories of ordinary people changing their views after a single conversation, but what about shifting the view of a staunch pro-choice advocate? And could a change that drastic actually last?

I had both of those questions answered in my conversation with Ellen at Colorado State University in April. Not only did Ellen have strongly held beliefs, but she has even been involved politically in order to promote those beliefs.

Ellen: I actually went a month ago to D.C. to lobby for global family planning and funding.

Jeremy: How did that go?

Ellen: Safe abortions save lives. 47,000 women die each year due to unsafe abortions.

Jeremy: That’s tragic. I agree that unsafe abortions shouldn’t be happening at all. What do you personally think about abortion?

Ellen: I could never get an abortion. It’s not like I’m going around saying, “Everybody, get an abortion.” A friend of mine just got an abortion a few weeks ago, and she’s really depressed.

Jeremy: I’m sorry that your friend is going through that.

During our conversation, it was evident that Ellen was very concerned about human rights and she was conflicted about the rights of the unborn.

Ellen: The reason I went to DC and talked to staffers for Senator Cory Gardner and Congressman Ken Buck and all the Colorado representatives is that we need this funding, not for abortion, but for family planning and education to help prevent unplanned pregnancies and maternal deaths.

Jeremy: We can certainly both agree that preventing maternal deaths is an important issue.

Ellen: But on abortion, do you think you’ll ever
Ellen: I have seen that also, personally. Last year when you guys were here, I was super pro-choice. I am much less so after speaking with your team, to the point where now I wouldn't get an abortion myself because abortion is so [messed] up! If I support human rights, then I need to support the unborn's rights, too. That's why it's a hard thing.

Jeremy: I'm glad you realize the importance of being consistent in that way. If you support human rights, you can't exclude some of the most vulnerable humans. But I can see your struggle. You're trying to think of how to maximize human rights, and that's a great thing to be working toward.

Ellen: Well, we agree there. So do you have options for women other than abortion?

Jeremy: Well, my church helps find adoptive parents for children around the world from within our church, and I know many churches in the country do the same. I also know that there are pregnancy resource centers that help pregnant women [and women who are struggling with past abortions, like your friend] in most towns throughout the US.

Ellen: I don’t want abortions to happen. And now I’m getting better at taking other people’s perspectives into consideration. I can totally see what you’re trying to do. What you guys are doing is great, educating people about abortion.

What amazing progress Ellen has made, thanks to our outreach events on her campus over the years! She made a change in her view last year after being “super pro-choice.” And to this day, one year later, she would not personally be willing to get an abortion.

Thank you for your financial and prayer support that has allowed me to impact so many pro-choice students like Ellen this spring. Think of all that can be accomplished if they, like Ellen, understand that to truly support human rights, they must support the rights of ALL humans.

—Jeremy