



Are **Abortion** Visuals Really Necessary?

That's one of the main objections/questions that students raise at a Justice For All (JFA) Exhibit outreach. Although the JFA Exhibit also contains lots of questions, fetal development photos, and medical opinion, it is the graphic abortion photos that many people take exception with. Below is a dialogue that I've experienced many times with students who voice this concern. Notice my effort to bring viewers back to the central question in the abortion debate—*"What/Who is being aborted?"*

Jonathan: So what do you think about the abortion exhibit on campus this week?

Charlie: Those abortion pictures are disgusting. They're grossing everybody out!

Jonathan: I'm actually here with the Exhibit. I agree that the abortion pictures are disgusting. However, the goal of the Exhibit is to educate students about abortion.

Charlie: Why do you have to use graphic visuals in public to get your message across?

Jonathan: Fair question. Do you think it's ever appropriate to use graphic visuals in public?

Charlie: Not if you're just using them as shock value for manipulating people into taking your position on abortion.

Jonathan: What if our exhibit focused upon and only showed Nazi holocaust victims? Could we be accused of manipulating viewers into taking our position against killing Jews?

Charlie: That's different.

Jonathan: How so?

Charlie: They were born, living human beings.

Jonathan: Are you suggesting that the unborn victims of abortion were not living human beings before they were killed by abortion?

Charlie: A fetus is much different than a born human being.

Jonathan: How so?

(The question squarely in front of Charlie now is "What are the unborn?" i.e., "What makes an unborn child different from a born child?")

→ Dialogue continued on reverse

I had the opportunity to discuss the purpose of the JFA exhibit with a Wichita State Professor last fall.



Jonathan: If we agreed that the unborn fetus is essentially the same as a newborn baby (except for size, location, environment and degree of dependency) wouldn't you agree that a picture communicates way more about abortion than words ever could?

Charlie: Yea, but we don't agree that they are the same.

Jonathan: I understand you don't think they are. But tell me, since we do agree that the pictures of abortion are shocking (and they are), doesn't it also follow that the practice of abortion should at least equally shock us as much as the pictures?

Charlie: I don't like abortion, but I think it's wrong to condemn people with these images.

Jonathan: Are you saying it's wrong to show people pictures of abortion, but it's somehow morally neutral to kill the unborn by abortion?

Charlie: Maybe so if the fetus was human, but I don't think it is.

Jonathan: So if it's not human, it must be something else. What would that be?

(Note my question to bring **Charlie** back to the essential question of "What is it?")

Try this yourself! Ask someone what they think about groups like JFA using graphic pictures to get their point across (show them the JFA Exhibit at www.jfaweb.org). Be sure to ask the question "What is it?" **and be quick to listen!** Let me know it goes!

Prayer Requests and Praise Reports:

- The Metro State Pro-Life Ambassadors have invited JFA to the Auraria campus in Denver, CO on September 26-27 and October 1-2. Pray these students bring their friends to the pre-Exhibit JFA training seminar on Saturday, Sept. 24.
- Pray for the JFA staff and regular volunteers as we all travel for this outreach. I'll travel I-70 by truck with the Exhibit equipment from KS to CO—8 hours each way.
- We will again be training Focus on the Family Institute and area Christian high students. I'm presenting to at least two student groups ahead of the Auraria campus.
- Matt McKinley and Curtis Hoier (both from Albuquerque) are raising support to join the JFA staff as co-interns. Pray God for their success and much needed help!
- We are working hard on the redesign of the JFA business plan and Exhibit program. I am personally responsible for rethinking and redesigning JFA's approach to recruiting volunteers at every level.
- THANK YOU FOR CONSISTANTLY PRAYING FOR ME AND THE J.F.A. TEAM.

Thank you so much for
your generous support
for this ministry.

Defending Human Value together,


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