



Walking Away

Jordan Newhouse ~ October 2015

JUSTICE
FOR ALL

Dear Family and Friends,

Sometimes when I'm surrounded by hundreds of college students at a JFA outreach, it's too easy to abandon a conversation in search of a "better" one. Take my conversation with Charlie for example. As Charlie walked by the poll table, I invited him to consider our question:

Me: *What do you think? Should Abortion Remain Legal?*

Charlie: *I don't really know.*

It used to be that when I faced someone without a strong opinion I would draw a blank—I knew how to respond to arguments, but I didn't know how to respond to apathy, so inevitably these people would keep walking. But this time, I was ready.

Me: *We could talk about it if you want to.*

Charlie: *Okay...I think...I think "No," abortion shouldn't be legal.*

When we meet people who seem to have a pro-life view, it can be easy to give them high fives and let them walk away. But sometimes they don't hold a very strong pro-life view. Like Charlie.

Me: *Are there any exceptions—any time when you think abortion does need to be legal?*

Charlie: *Well, yeah. If the woman really can't support a child.*

Me: *In that case—when a woman can't support a child—should abortion be legal through all nine months of pregnancy?*



Sometimes the temptation to abandon a conversation can come from something as simple as too much sun!

Charlie: *Yeah...I think so.*

Me: *Even really late in the pregnancy?*

Charlie: *Well...no...not like the last three months...*

Ideally, I would have continued to help him examine and rethink his view, but unfortunately Charlie had to leave for class.

If my definition of success was a changed mind, I could have walked away discouraged. But I define success differently.* As Greg Koukl says, I wanted to "put a pebble in his shoe." Charlie won't easily forget the questions I asked him about abortion and hopefully he will continue to consider the topic more deeply.

Don't underestimate the big difference you could make by taking part in a small conversation. Will you take the next opportunity that arises?

*see my Oct. 2014 newsletter, "What is Success?"