



The Kulas Kronicle



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Cookie Cutter Conversations



Many different people give arguments in support of abortion that sound very similar. Often the arguments are **exactly** the same, *I mean word-for-word*. It is as if each pro-choice person is reading from the same script. Hearing these almost script-like arguments, we can tend to oversimplify a person's view and give cookie-cutter responses of our own. Worse yet, we can miss an opportunity to really connect with the person right in front of us.

I face a challenge in preparing volunteers to balance two things in their conversations. I want them to be able to intellectually handle pro-choice arguments, but I also want them to realize that the purpose of having this intellectual knowledge isn't to win an argument in the abstract, but rather to reach a person's heart.

For example, let's say a pro-choice person shares that his sister was raped, became pregnant, and had an abortion. It is a common tendency for pro-life advocates to jump right into a defense for the unborn, completely forgetting to express compassion for the rape victim.

We devote an entire section in our seminar to helping volunteers discuss abortion in the case of rape, both relationally and intellectually. I won't be

able to go into nearly as much detail in this newsletter as we do in the seminar,* but I will say one thing briefly. Before offering an intellectual response, couldn't a person first show compassion by asking, "How is your sister doing?" Isn't that what any normal person would do after hearing that someone had been violated?

See, we want to develop each volunteer into a different kind of pro-life advocate, one who is prepared to have a different kind of conversation about abortion than people are used to. This pro-life advocate asks questions with an open heart, listens to understand, and finds common ground whenever possible.**

While we want pro-life advocates to challenge false beliefs, we first want them to seek clarification about what pro-choice people believe, why they believe those things, and show compassion. We want them to be focused not so much on cookie-cutter dialogue points, but rather to be focused on the people they talk with.

Why is this important? Well, because this treats people with dignity. All human beings, including pro-choice advocates, have intrinsic value. This value is not based on what beliefs they hold, but rather on what they are, human beings made in the image of God.

In Christ,

Paul G. Kulas

*Resources related to abortion in the case of rape:

www.jfaweb.org/question-of-rape

**Resources about the Three Essential Skills:

www.jfaweb.org/three-skills