



Dear Friend,

Have you ever had one of those moments when you realized you need to just follow your own advice? I had one of those this summer at Wichita State University.

I was standing in front of our A-frame kiosk when I saw a young man walking directly towards me. I was expecting him to be unhappy about my presence on his campus, but surprisingly he was very friendly and interested in having a conversation. His name was Damien. Our discussion turned very quickly to precisely the question any pro-life advocate wants his or her discussion to focus on: “What is the unborn?” We agreed that the unborn was human biologically, but Damien did not think it was a person.

Then the conversation became very confusing. I was trying to help Damien explain why he thought the unborn was not a person, but he kept changing his answer. For about ten minutes he tried to express why he thought the unborn was not a person. He jumped from “it can’t think,” to “it hasn’t had any experiences,” to “it doesn’t have any relationships with other people,” to “it isn’t breathing oxygen,” and then he jumped back to some of these multiple times. At first I thought he was changing his view because he was stubborn, but finally I realized it was because he was truly confused. He really thought abortion was justified, and so he thought the unborn must not be a person. He was trying to come up with some way to make sense of that.

Finally I stopped and asked him, **“Do you really think the unborn is not a person, or do you just think abortion is justified, regardless of what the unborn is, because women should have the freedom to do what they want with their bodies?”** Damien’s eyes got wide, and he very excitedly affirmed that the latter is what he really meant all along. Unfortunately, shortly after this he had to run to class, but he was thankful for the brief conversation.

Last December I wrote a newsletter on how to respond to the “Sovereign Zone Argument.” The Sovereign Zone Argument states that abortion is justified even if the unborn is human, because a woman can do anything she wants with anything inside the sovereign zone of her body. I suggested in that letter that any time you hear a



Justice For All outreach events don’t always look very exciting on the surface. Sometimes there isn’t a big crowd with protestors, but that’s okay. The goal for all of our outreaches is beautifully encapsulated in this photo: **dialogue**. This one picture managed to capture five out of our six summer interns all discussing abortion with students at Wichita State University.



reference to the woman's body (such as "my body, my choice"), you should clarify whether the person is defending abortion because she thinks the unborn is not a valuable human being, or because a woman's bodily rights trump the rights of the unborn.

Over the last nine months, I have become convinced that this clarification question is even more important than I had realized. I thought I was becoming really good at recognizing bodily rights arguments, but Damien didn't give any obvious hint. The only hint was that he was clearly confused about his own view. I have seen over and over in conversations this year that bodily rights arguments are incredibly common. Many pro-life people don't recognize them, and *even pro-choice people like Damien don't always know which type of argument they are making*. If we are going to dialogue productively with our pro-choice friends, we need to help them to clarify what they are talking about.

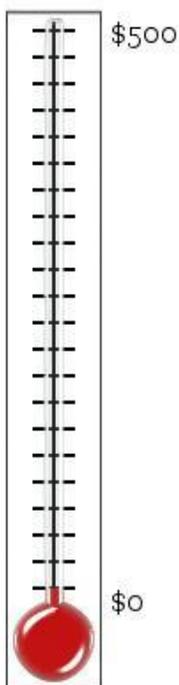


On the same day I met Damien, I met this student. She was very angry about our presence on her campus, but I did my best to show compassion to her while answering her mile-a-minute questions. After about forty minutes, she angrily told me that she was only talking to me because she wanted to waste my time so I wouldn't talk to anyone else. I didn't mind, because it gave me an opportunity to model how to go about a tough conversation for summer interns Hannah Williamson and Holly Meath.

I'm excited to say that I just posted an essay online called *Autumn in the Sovereign Zone*, in which I give a detailed account of how to respond to the Sovereign Zone Argument. It has been a big part of my work for the last few months, so I hope you find it helpful. You can find it at www.timothybrahm.com/SZ.

In Christ,
Tim

Recent Projects and Updates



- **Support-Raising Update:** I am so thankful to all of you who make my job possible by faithfully supporting me. I am also encouraged by the four families who have joined my support team this summer, as well as two individuals who have gone above and beyond by increasing their support. I have a goal of raising \$500 a month by the end of this year. If you haven't already, please consider helping to make this important work possible by partnering with me, or by helping me connect with others who would be excited about what I'm doing.
- **Blog update:** I just launched my blog at www.timothybrahm.com! You can expect to see regular posts about the pro-life movement, responses to pro-choice arguments, my take on current events, more stories of conversations from outreach, and occasionally my thoughts on topics not directly pertaining to abortion. You can also find my past newsletters there.

If you're interested in seeing my posts but fear that you will forget to visit the site (I'm the same way), you can subscribe and receive updates by email. Just go to www.timothybrahm.com, type your email address in the box on the right-hand side of my website, and click *subscribe*.

- **Update on Equal Rights:** Anyone who has talked with me recently knows how excited I am about the Equal Rights Argument (the subject of my April and July newsletters). This summer my colleague Steve Wagner and I have been hard at work developing a new section in our seminar where we teach and mentor this incredible tool. JFA's training team has done an outstanding job of giving input, workshopping the new section, and helping our volunteers to use it on campus.