

Rebecca's Reflections

May 2010



Dear Family and Friends,

Of all the great conversations I had with students last month at UNC-Greeley, one stands out in my mind. After much discussion, a student named Mike refused to concede the scientific fact that the unborn are human.

"What else can the unborn be but human?" I asked.

Mike responded, "Look, I've forced myself to believe the unborn isn't human."

"Why did you feel you had to force yourself to believe that?"

"Because my mom has had two abortions. If I believe that the unborn are human, I have to come to terms that I have a brother and sister... And that means... I couldn't love my mom knowing that..."

Wow! This opened a big door in the conversation for me to share with Mike how he can love his mom *and* be a voice for voiceless, unborn children.

By simply asking two types of questions, "**what**" and "**why**", I discovered the true reason why Mike couldn't identify the unborn as human beings...it was too painful.

It is easy to quickly judge others. That's why it's crucial that pro-life advocates learn the power of asking questions when in dialogue with those who disagree.

Defending life together,

Rebecca J. Haschke

Rebecca L. Haschke

Tools for Effective Dialogue about Abortion

3 Essential Skills

Skill #1: Ask Questions

1. Don't assume you know what the other person thinks, feels, or intends. Ask!
2. Ask "**What..?**". **What** do you believe? **What** did you mean by...? This gathers information and makes clarifications of beliefs.
3. Ask "**Why..?**". **Why** do you believe that? **Why** do you feel the unborn isn't human? "Why questions" ask for evidence and reverse the burden of proof.

Skill #2: Listen

(This will be covered in more depth in future newsletters.)

Skill #3: Build Common Ground

(This will be covered in more depth in future newsletters.)

- Adapted from training materials developed by Stephen Wagner, Justice For All Director of Training



Above: Discussing the existence of God and value of unborn children with an atheist from the University of Northern Colorado—Greeley.