

# Conversations in a Post-Roe America

REBEKAH DYER'S JFA UPDATE

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Dear friend,

In April, I was at St. Mary's University in Texas having a conversation with a young woman I'll call Abby. She thought abortion should be legal until late in the third trimester of pregnancy and told me she had recently gone to a pro-choice rally with her mom. While she had a pretty extreme view about abortion, she was also friendly and told me I made some good points that made her think. Before she left she told me, "This was the first conversation I've had about abortion that didn't get heated."

While I was thankful our conversation was a good experience for her, it also saddened me that having civil conversations about a controversial issue was out of the norm for her. I think it's out of the norm for too many others in our country.

People leave conversations with a certain "flavor" in their mouths. When I was at a university in Texas earlier this year, some people ganged up on me and screamed in my face. I don't even really remember what they were saying, but I do remember the way they treated me. While most people are not like this, it reminded me how important it is to communicate lovingly and carefully with people. People may not always remember what we say in our conversations, but they will remember the way we treated them. They'll remember how we spoke to them.

There's a lot of weight that accompanies conversations about abortion. Many people are familiar with heated interactions surrounding abortion. As we go into a new semester with *Roe v. Wade* behind us, I believe it's so important that we continue to handle our own emotions with care, using our words in a way that honors God and helps the person in front of us get closer to the truth. I'll be returning to universities across the country in a couple weeks engaging people on the issue of abortion and training pro-life advocates to persuasively balance truth and love in conversations that seek to give voice to voiceless unborn children who are killed every day by abortion.

Human lives and their eternal souls are at stake. It's an incredible honor that God invites us to take part in the work of communicating truth and pursuing justice in His world.

I don't know where Abby is right now in regards to changing her mind on abortion and knowing the Lord. I don't know what state the women are in who yelled at me in Texas. But I do know that all of the conversations you and I have had and those we will have are under the loving and sovereign supervision of the God who cares far more about human beings than we ever will. When the results of our conversations are uncertain, we can trust Him, because in Him they are not uncertain at all.

In Christ,

Rebekah



*In conversation at St. Mary's University, April 2022*

