



ARGUMENT FOUR

Arguing against abortion is intolerant and an insult to the freedom of a woman to make her own choices.

The Response:

If one of your friends was skipping class and you knew they were going to be expelled, would you tell them not to skip class?

If you caught your older sibling doing cocaine, would you tell them to stop or inform your parents because you were concerned for their safety?

If you saw a friend grab their keys to drive home when clearly intoxicated, would you stop them?

If you saw an innocent person held at gunpoint, would you hope that someone would plead with the assailant not to shoot?

If you knew your friend was going to have an abortion, would you tell her not to?

For many people, it is easier to tell a drunk friend not to drive than to tell a pregnant friend not to have an abortion. Why do we think that a woman has the freedom to have an abortion, but a man does not have the freedom to kill an innocent person? Why it is that we instinctively defend human life in all cases except for the life of the unborn child?

One of the great “values” of our modern culture is “tolerance.” We are told that we need to respect the views and opinions of others – and this is true in many cases. We can respect the beliefs of another person, but we also have room to disagree with them. Respecting another’s belief still leaves room for dialogue and discussion. We are free to disagree. In some cases, like abortion, racism, oppression, and injustice, we are free to do more than disagree. We can and should adamantly oppose anything that hurts human life. In this case, “tolerance,” is intolerable.

Unfortunately, the response to our defense of life is often the accusation of how “intolerant of a woman’s freedom” we are. What does it mean, though, to really exercise or experience freedom?

The definition of freedom in our society is distorted. It is true that we all have a certain right to freedom and that we can make our own decisions (CCC 1731-1732). Our lives are comprised of opportunities to utilize our freedom to form a good conscience – this means that we have chances to learn what is right and wrong.

We are faced each day with decisions to act and choose what is good and choose what is evil. In the Book of Deuteronomy, God puts this reality to the people:

*“See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you this day that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land, which you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, **that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.**” (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)*

God gives us the freedom to choose, but we also make choices that lead toward fuller life or toward death. When we do choose what is good we become freer; “there is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just” (CCC 1733).

We are all born with this freedom to choose between good and evil, and we all have certain instincts to know the things that lead to death

are bad and things that lead to life are good. But there are a lot of things in between, and we all rely upon each other in order to learn and understand what things are good and what things are bad. Parents teach their young children what is right and wrong. You probably learned from your parents not to hit other kids or steal their toys. Teachers tell us that it is good to do our best work and wrong to cheat. Driver's education teaches us that it is good to drive on the right side of the road and bad to run red lights. Our faith (through God's inspiration) teaches us the Ten Commandments as a guideline to form our conscience and to live in harmony with others. In every area of our lives, there are people helping to form and shape our conscience so that we use our freedom properly (CCC 1738).

Many people mistakenly believe that freedom means "do whatever I want." Free will allows us to make our own choices, but true freedom is found in doing what is right. We misuse our free will when we disregard those around us and choose to do something that hurts another person.

Freedom does not mean that everyone can do whatever he or she wants, even if it is evil, because they have free will. Not only does this perpetuate evils, but it actually makes us less free. Sin is never freedom, it is slavery (CCC 1740, Galatians 5:1). This distorted ideology of an "absolute" freedom to do anything, good or evil, does not progress our society, as it

does not make people freer. Rather, it breaks communities apart, putting the people in slavery to their sins and consequences.

In advising a woman to not have an abortion, you are not disrespecting her freedom nor are you being intolerant; you are utilizing your freedom properly and helping her to experience freedom by making the right choice. You absolutely have the right in this case to tell her what to do because the safety and welfare of a human life is at risk - not only the actual life of the baby but also her own emotional and physical health. Abortion is a serious matter; it takes the life of an innocent person.

We mistake the "freedom" a person has to make a wrong decision with true freedom. We need to be ready to step in to not only save the life of an unborn child, but to prevent the mother from making a decision she may very well regret later. We have been given freedom to use our voice to defend the voiceless. We must choose to exercise that freedom, even when it is difficult. Just like we exercise our freedom to prevent our friend from driving drunk; we wouldn't say, "Well, they need to make their own choices." We know the consequences and what is at stake. Failing to speak up is to become an accomplice to their dangerous decision. *See page 66 for a helpful article on how to talk to a friend considering abortion.*

The Response Summary:

- Freedom is the ability to choose what is right, not the ability to do whatever we want.
- When we choose to allow someone to make a destructive decision because we don't want to infringe upon their freedom, we actually aid in destroying their freedom.
- We do have a right to defend life and challenge the perception that a person should be entitled to abortion, because abortion destroys a human life, harms a mother, and actually enslaves a person to the sin and consequences of abortion. We do not enable a person to be free when we allow them to choose dangerous or destructive paths.