

HUMAN DIGNITY OUTLINE | the**culture**project

SLIDE 1: Introduction

SLIDE 2: Epic Video

- I. There's something epic about being human. There's something awesome testing your limits and pushing yourself to do something adventurous. And what we saw in this video is people pushing themselves to the limit and doing things that only human beings can do.
 - a. Can a dog go sky-diving?
 - b. We can push ourselves and do amazing things.
- II. This video also got me pumped up because when I watched this video I also imagined myself doing some of these things and how I would feel while doing that.
 - . Being pushed, the excitement, the adrenaline pumping. Maybe you were also feeling some of that.
 - a. I wonder if you could think to yourself of a moment when you felt alive, like some of these people in the video.
 - i. Like you were on the edge of your seat and you were happy to be who you were.
- III. Personal Moment:
 - . Something in me felt pushed, and I pushed myself to my limit, and I felt happy in the risk and the adrenaline.
 - . I felt alive, because I was doing something that not everyone else can do.

SLIDE 3: Knowledge, Love, Action

- I. But even if we were the greatest stunt performers or the greatest athletes that did whatever it took to be the best and would experience that adrenaline all the time, I wonder if at the end of my life if that would be enough to make me feel as though I lived a full life.
 - a. I don't think that is, because we as people and as human are more than just amazing bodies that are capable of amazing accomplishments.
 - i. What sets us apart from any other creature on earth is our ability to know, to love, and to fight for what we know and love or, to put that knowledge and love into action..
- II. What does it mean to know?
 - . We can all think of a person in our lives that we know really well.
- a. Personal Example

- b. Another's deep knowledge of me could give that person the freedom to hurt me deeply, because he/she would know my wounds.
 - . But it would also give that person the ability to love me in a very deep way.
- c. When you know someone deeply, it allows you to love that person in a unique way that no one else can.
 - . But what is love?
 1. We can all agree that it's not just feelings. Something that's fleeting like the wind.
 2. There's tremendous effort in loving someone. Putting yourself out there and taking a risk.
- a. Love is the mother or father who will get up at 3:00am to comfort their newborn baby. Love is maybe when your best friend needs you to drop everything just to listen to them.
 3. When you love someone, it's not enough to just say you love that person. Love always pushes you into action. Love motivates us to do something for another.

SLIDE 4: Corporal Kyle Carpenter [video]

- I. Has anyone heard of Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter?
 - a. Lance Corporal Kyle Carpenter was a United States Marine who, on June 19, 2014 was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama.
 - i. If you know anything about the Medal of Honor, then you know that it is an award given to men and women who have served his/her country in a very extraordinary and sacrificial way.
 - b. He was given the Medal of Honor because he was in Afghanistan and was on top of a roof with his fellow marine. The rest of their troop was inside the building waiting for their signal to come out. And all of a sudden, enemy fire started coming and bullets were blazing and there was a major gun fight.
 - . And Lance Corporal Carpenter was on the rooftop looking for snipers when all of a sudden a grenade gets thrown on the roof, and he has only a split second to react. And he took his very body and jumped on the grenade and took the explosion so that he could save the life of his fellow marine.
 - c. And I want to let him tell you a little bit about his experience.
 - d. There's something heroic about this man.
 - . Because not only did he know and loved his fellow marine, his brother, he was willing to give of his very self to protect the value of that person. His fellow marine's life was worth saving, worth protecting, and it was almost instinctual for him.
 1. His motivation is of course because of some bond there. But we don't know what their friendship was like, he doesn't tell us if he/she was a man or a woman, he doesn't tell us if they were best friends, or if they have butt heads before, which I'm sure they have. And there

have may be even points when he was mad at his fellow marine, but it didn't even matter because those things don't set the value of a person.

- e. It is because we exist that we have value, and makes us worth defending and fighting for.

SLIDE 5: Human Value

- I. But what is this idea of value? Let's talk about value for a second.
 - a. iPhone
 - i. My iPhone has less value now because there is a newer version, and I want that version.
- II. Contrast that to my friend.
 - . If my friend does something that hurts me and I get offended, and I get angry at her, does her hurting me cause her to lose her value? If I get so mad at her, then can I look at her and say, "You are worthless"?
 - . I can't, because a person's value is not something that is given to them.
 - 1. It is something that exists within us. It is something that is a part of who we are. It is innate. It comes simply from the fact that we exist.
- III. Continuing on this idea of value, I want to do a little bit of a comparison.
- IV. Puppy vs. Baby
 - . It's difficult to look at that picture of the puppy and not be moved with love and fuzzies. And if we were to have a competition of cuteness with this baby and this dog, I would want to say that the baby is cuter, but that dog is so stinking cute.
 - . However, if I were to ask anyone in this room, "Which one is more valuable?", I think we can all agree that this baby is much more valuable than this dog.
 - a. I'm not denying that we can't have great relationships with our animals; we can cherish our animals and value them. I think that comes naturally with companionship. There is great value in animals.
 - . But how much greater is the value of a baby, of another human person? Even if he/she is not mine.
 - i. Example of public pool: What if both this puppy and this baby fell into the pool at the same time, and I had time to jump in and save only one of them. Which one would you tell me to save?
 - 1. The baby, of course. Because we can instinctually see value.

SLIDE 6: James Foley

- V. And there's an instinct within us that knows all of this.
- a. We can demonstrate all day long that we need to value human life, but there's already something instinctual within us that already knows it.
 - i. Unfortunately, even though we know it in theory, we see examples all the time of ways that we don't treat people like they have value.
 - ii. In little ways and in drastic ways, we see it every single day.
- VI. One major example is something you've probably already heard about going on in the Middle East. Just this past August, we received the tragic news about this Journalist named James Foley.
 - . James Foley was in Syria as a free-lance journalist, covering the civil war when he was taken as a prisoner and kept in a war camp by the terrorist group ISIS.
 - . Just this summer, his parents received an email and a video of him being beheaded as a message to the United States to stay out of international affairs.
- i. Aside from all of the political implications of this situation, what's really happening here is this man, with parents and brothers, and a life and passion, and mistakes and imperfections, was being used as a bargaining tool, as an object for an act of terrorism.
- ii. In this way his value was violated.

SLIDE 7: Violence & Murder

- I. We also see the violation of human value and dignity every day in our own country, in things like violence and murder.
 - a. And regardless of the intentions of murder, it could be out of anger, revenge, or psychological disorder - no matter what the reason we can all agree that violence and murder of a human person is always wrong because it violates the fundamental value and dignity that every person has.

SLIDE 8: Human Trafficking

- I. Right now in our own country, human trafficking is one of the fastest growing enterprises in our cities. Men, women, and children are constantly being sold to one person's wallet for another person's pleasure.
 - a. Their entire lives, their dignity are violated and they are treated as objects.
 - b. What slavery, in all its forms, tells humanity is that you are worth the value that someone puts on you. And in that way, these people's value is completely violated.

Slide 9: Injustices against humanity (collage)

- I. We can all agree that these things are tragic.
- II. The good news is that, in all of these situations, the law comes in on the side of the victim, to protect the value of the person.
- III. Unfortunately, this doesn't happen in every circumstance.

SLIDE 10: Peterson's Story

- I. I want to tell you a story of a couple from about 10 years ago. This couple's names were Stacy and Scott Peterson. They were newlyweds and Stacy was 32 weeks pregnant. However Scott then no longer wanted to be married, was having an affair, and wanted freedom and ended up murdering his pregnant wife.
 - a. When the authorities found out and when Scott was taken to court, there was a big debate. And the debate was over whether or not he was going to be charged with one murder or two.
 - i. What do you think the court decided?
 - b. Scott Peterson was found guilty of two murders, the murder of his wife Stacy and the murder of his son Connor.
- II. From this court case a new bill was signed into law, called the **Unborn Victims of Violence Act**, also known as Laci and Connor's Law.
 - . This act protects preborn children from over 64 different types of violence, except for one.
 - . "The term "unborn child" means a child in utero, and the term "child in utero" or "child, who is in utero" means a member of the species homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb."<http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1841> section d)
 - i. There's a clause in this bill that protects the right to abortion, which says the preborn child can legally be considered a victim of murder, of abuse, of trafficking, of any type of violence unless it's behind closed doors, in an abortion clinic, at the request of the mother.
 - ii. This is an inconsistency.

SLIDE 11: Abortion

- I. So let's talk about abortion.
- II. When you hear the word abortion, what comes to mind?
- III. What is abortion?
 - a. Merriam Webster defines abortion as, "the intentional termination of a human pregnancy."
 - i. Abortion is the intentional termination of that newly created human life.

- IV. But there is still the discrepancy if it is murder or if it is a right, if it is a baby or if it is tissue. We talk a lot about “women’s rights” when it comes to abortion, which is important, but we don’t often talk about the humanity of the preborn baby.
- V. *(Could talk about humanization vs. dehumanization here)
- VI. Let’s take a journey through the beautiful, epic journey of the development of a newly conceived child and see for ourselves. This is what pregnancy is!

Slide 12: Moment of Fertilization [video]

- a. at the moment of fertilization, millions of sperm from a man seek out to fertilize one egg from a woman!
 - i. The cells combine, and 23 chromosomes from the mother and 23 chromosomes from the father combine to create a set of DNA that has never existed before!
 - ii. At this point, all the unlearned characteristics about this new person are determined: height, hair and eye color, etc.
 - iii. Cells begin to divide rapidly as the egg travels down the mother’s fallopian tube and sends hormonal messages to tell mom, “Hey! I’m here! Get ready!” If cells continued to divide as rapidly as they are here, this baby would weigh 1.5 tons at birth!

SLIDE 13: 8 Weeks

- I. So we will take a look at a pre-born baby at 8 weeks. At this point, the baby is still technically called an embryo.
 - i. The lining of the uterus provides nutrition and becomes the life-source of the child.
- II. At this point at 8 weeks, there’s a developing brain and spinal cord. Scientists have been able to detect brainwaves for this age already.
 - a. There are arms and legs, and the fingers and toes are still forming.
 - b. He’s about the size of a blueberry and has doubled in size within the last week.

SLIDE 14: 12 Weeks [video]

- I. This is a 4-D Ultrasound of a baby at 12 weeks, who is now technically called a fetus. At this point, this is the end of the first trimester.
 - a. He is about 2.5 inches tall and about right around the size of your thumb.
 - i. His fingers and toes are developed and he’s got fingernails.
 - b. His heart has been beating for 9 weeks now.
 - I. This is the stage in which most abortions take place.

SLIDE 15: 25 Weeks [video]

- I. And finally we have a baby at 24 weeks gestation, which is right at the end of the second trimester and entering into the third trimester.
- II. This baby now has hair growing on his head, he's moving and he's kicking.
 - a. If he were to be born at this point, he would have a really good chance of surviving.
 - i. And that is why this is about the latest point that most states will still allow for abortions.

SLIDE 16: 8 months [video]

- I. This is what a baby looks like 1 month before birth.

He's already been on this epic journey of development. He hasn't yet met his parents in person, but he can already recognize their voice. And yet in some states, abortion is legal even at this stage.

SLIDE 17: Collage of Developmental Stages

- I. How beautiful is the development of the human person. From the moment of conception until the first time the baby takes his first breath, the miracle of life is magnificent.
- II. The question is, do these little people deserve to have their value protected?

SLIDE 18: Abortion

- III. Bring back definition, connect what has just been seen to the definition of "pregnancy." Thus, abortion is the intentional termination of a human life – in its most simplest form, murder.
- IV. There are two different kinds of abortion that happen
 - A. Medical abortion: 2 pills. The first, to put it simply, cuts the baby off from nutrition. The baby will essentially starve, and the mother will be given a second pill so that she will deliver the body of the baby.
 - B. Surgical abortion: A mother has to go into an office and have a procedure done, which differs depending on the stage of pregnancy.

SLIDE 19: 3,300

- I. Unfortunately, there are 3,300 abortions that take place every single day.
- II. This means 3,300 little preborn children's lives are taken in our own country today.

SLIDE 20: Petersons vs. 3,300

- I. But, our question is, what is the difference between these 3,300 preborn children, and, say, Connor Peterson, of whom we spoke earlier?
- II. Connor was wanted.
- III. So are we saying that the value of the preborn child depends on whether he or she is wanted? Or if the mother assents to his/her "termination?"
- IV. Humanization vs. dehumanization. This means that in order to humanize what the mother wants, we must dehumanize the child.

SLIDE 21: Planned Parenthood

- I. This is the face of abortion in America.
- II. Planned PArethood is America's #1 abortion provider.
- III. Words like "Care," "Help," bright colors.
- IV. But what we see happening here is work to humanize abortion. To make it look very human, when in fact, in order to make abortion work, what has to happen necessarily is actually a dehumanization.
 - A. Even if it's for a good goal such as raising a successful farm, providing for a family, raising crops for an economy, a man just a couple of hundred years ago thought he had to dehumanize an African American. Or for Hitler to act out his ideals, which could be seen as goods to build a beautiful race, to advance science, he had to dehumanize entire populations of people.
 - B. In order for us to keep abortion around to help women, we have to dehumanize children.
- V. Nobody works at a Planned Parenthood because they want to kill babies. I hope nobody does.
 - . People work at Planned Parenthood and at abortion clinics because they want to help women. But what we see happening here is an inconsistency that has to be present if we want to keep this going.
 1. We have to value one person over another, and there's an inconsistency there.

- VI. As we talked about abortion and as we see the bright colors and happy faces, we have to recognize that abortion is something that we're not necessarily faced with in its raw form very often.
 - . Most abortions happen before a woman's pregnant body even starts to show.
- A. Or the majority of abortions would take place early in the morning on the weekends in a clinic behind closed doors in a run-down part of town.
- VII. So what we've decided to do is to look at what actually happens behind those close doors. Let's go there, let's look at it for what it actually is. And we invite you to look with us and to recognize the inconsistencies that we have seen.

SLIDE 22: 1 Out Of 3 Women

- I. But not only does it break my heart for the children, but also for those women who've experienced this painful process.
- II. The reality today is that 1 out of 3 women by the age of 45 will have had an abortion. And that is a devastating number.
 - a. Not only is it a devastating number because of the number of children who have been robbed of their lives, but also because each and every one of those women have been negatively affected by abortion.
 - i. For every child that has been conceived, there is always a mother and a father. And so when a child is intentionally terminated, there is a mother and father who will experience the after effects of losing their child.
 - b. The theme of inconsistency comes up again because of the lies that abortion is "no big deal". That you will be fine after losing your child.
 - . And yet at the same time, we tell women who have experienced miscarriages how important it is to mourn the loss of their child.
- i. I see an inconsistency there because a woman's body was naturally and beautifully made to house human life. There is a beautiful part to your bodies, ladies in this room that I do not have as a man that is specifically oriented towards the creation and caring of a brand new human life.
 - 1. There is nothing natural about a miscarriage and there is nothing natural about abortion.
- c. Women who have experienced abortion are prone to some side effects such as an increase in anxiety and depression, and alcohol or substance abuse or dependency, and even suicidal thoughts.
 - . These are all really difficult things to talk about, and we are in a very heavy place right now. But the reason why we share this is not because we want to talk about numbers and statistics, but because each one of these women are human persons.
- i. They have stories that are worth telling, and I would like to share with you some stories from women who have experienced abortions and who have wanted to seek out healing that they wished to have.

SLIDE 23: Lumina Video

SLIDE 24: Forgiveness & Hope

- I. The question of “if” you will encounter a person who has experienced abortion in some way is no longer a question. The question now is “when”.
 - a. And you might encounter someone who has experienced abortion themselves or a family member or a friend or that person, and it’s important to know that there are resources out there for women.
- II. One that I would highly recommend is Rachel’s Vineyard.
 - . Rachelsvineyard.org
 - a. They have resources and programs for both men and women who would like to mourn the loss of their child and to find healing after abortion.
- III. You can also go to our website, restoreculture.com, where you can also find resources about how to help friends or family who have experienced abortion.
- IV. Women deserve the opportunity to mourn after an abortion.
 - . Like we talked earlier, there’s something within us that just knows that we all value human life.
 - a. And when we act in any way that is contrary to this, we are assenting into an inconsistency.

SLIDE 25: Thomas Vander Woude

- I. I’d like to tell you another story of Mr. Thomas Vander Woude. The picture of him on the right is of him and his sons. He was a father of 7, and the son in the front of the picture is named Joseph. He was diagnosed with Down syndrome.
 - a. One day Joseph and his dad were outside in the back of their farm, and they were working to fix their pool. And next to their pool was the septic tank, where the sewage of the home was located. And while they were cleaning up the yard, Joseph fell into the septic tank.
 - i. And in an instant, Mr. Vander Woude took it upon himself to jump into the septic tank to save his son who was drowning. He pushed him out of the septic tank, but while saving his son he himself drowned.
 - ii. Vander Woude yelled to a workman to call 911 and jumped in, forcing himself past Joseph so that he could get underneath him to hold him up.
 - iii. According to family friend Michael McGrath, Vander Woude told the worker, “You pull, I’ll push.” “As he lifted Joseph up, his eyes closed, and he collapsed into the tank,” said McGrath. “When the paramedics came, they were unable to resuscitate him.”

SLIDE 26: Father Thomas Vander Woude

- I. This is another son of Mr. Vander Woude, Father Thomas Vander Woude, who through the inspiration of his father decided to become a Catholic Priest.
 - a. And one day Father Vander Woude was at his parish when he was informed that there was a couple from another state who had conceived a child and discover that the child had Down syndrome. And this couple had decided that they were going to abort if they could not find someone who would adopt the child.

SLIDE 27: Facebook Post

- I. And so Father Vander Woude ran immediately to the parish's Facebook, and he posted something on the page.
 - a. And this is what it said: Read the quote.
- II. The next time the receptionist checked the email, they discovered that they had over 900 emails in the parish inbox from families across the country who said, "This couple might not want their baby but we do, we will accept him, will adopt him, and we will love him."

SLIDE 28: Virtue and Love

- I. Why do I share this story? Because it is a testament to the understanding of not only to the value and dignity of the human person, but how we can arrive to a culture that sees this value and respects this dignity of every human person.
- II. Because of the witness of one man, of one father's love for his son, another person was inspired to protect that value and dignity of another person.
 - a. Because of the virtue and the decision to do good of one man, it inspired another man to do the same for another person.
- III. And this is why we are here, and this is why the Culture Project exists.
 - . We believe in the value and the dignity of every human person.
- a. And it's not enough to protest on the street to get the laws of abortion changed. Because when the law says that something's wrong, it still doesn't mean that people's hearts will be fully in line with what it says.
 - i. Because it's not enough to just know something's wrong, knowing and loving must push us into action.
- IV. When the laws of abortion change that would be amazing and much needed, but what is necessary is our individual decision to choose what is good to love the other person in the everyday, in the mundane.
 - . If you decide while you're in school that when you see a bully picking on another student, to step in for that person's good and dignity and protect that person, and if you decide when a friend is having a tough

time to take the risk of asking them what is wrong and pushing aside your schedule just to listen to them, or if your parents were arguing one day and were cursing at each other and you decide to step in and say, "Please stop, remember the love that you first had for each other", when you decide to do good for another person, you inspire them to do the same for others.

. And one day when these people are faced with the same decisions, as Mr. Vander Woude or as a single mother with a preborn child, they will be inspired to choose what is good. They will choose the person and uphold their dignity.

SLIDE 29: Conclusion

- I. We as the young generation, we have the amazing and extraordinary ability to change the world.
 - a. You will graduate from high school and you might one day be making six figures and be the only the one who has the abundant wealth to support a woman who is in a crisis pregnancy and will be able to pay for her diapers and put a roof over her head. These are ways our generation will change the issue and eradicate things such as abortion, trafficking, violence, and murder.
 - b. We invite you guys to choose the good, to become fully alive. To understand that you, regardless of where ever you've been, are not unwanted or unlovable, but are capable of doing extraordinary things.
 - i. Because as people, we have been called to do amazing things.
- II. We thank you for your time and your respect, and if you have any questions then we want you to keep in touch with us. We have a website, a Facebook page, Instagram, twitter, and work emails.
 - . Please keep in touch with us. If you have a question or if you would like to challenge something we have said, we want to hear from you because this is a dialogue that must happen and needs to happen because things must change. Thank you so much for your respect and attention.