



ARIZONA *life*
COALITION

Arizona Life Coalition is pleased to announce the 2023 Grand Prize Winner for our annual Student Pro-Life Essay Contest: Micheal Greene!

My Truth or *The* Truth

By Michael Greene

The late Pope Benedict XVI once said, “We are building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires.”

That was in 2005, but what he said is even more true today. Never has relativism been so rampant, and never have the stakes been so high. Moral relativism is the belief that there is no objective truth, only opinion. Of course, relativism itself ends in contradiction, asserting that, “it is true that there is no truth.” At first glance, however, a “dictatorship of relativism” may seem like its own contradiction. It appears that whatever moral relativism may be, the one thing it can't be is a dictatorship. Indeed, government of any kind seems to be ruled out by definition! However, under closer examination, the true nature and results of this tyranny become clear: this view distorts the dignity and sanctity of every life, born and unborn.

Without absolute truth, not only do the rights of the unborn become optional, but the rights of all human beings must also submit to the dubious mercy of opinion. Thus, we end with Darwin's “survival of the fittest:” a total anarchy. It gets even worse. As my father often says, “To tell a lie you have to deny the truth; to sell a lie, you have to silence it.” When the ruling relativists encounter people with a differing “truth,” especially one that is *the* truth, they must suppress it, for if it were permitted to propagate, the untruths of relativism would be exposed in their illogic. In the end, the truth is silenced, and we are left with a total tyranny of relativism—a tyranny that violates the

absolute dignity and sanctity of human life. To make a statement like ‘every human life is sacred’ is incompatible with this philosophy.

This is one of the root causes of the problems facing our society today, chief among them the issue of abortion. With no moral principles, no right or wrong, a human being can be anything one wants it to be. Though we believe it is true that every human person, born and unborn, has dignity, and that life is sacred, to a relativist, that is simply *our* truth. It does not matter what information, facts, or arguments we offer to demonstrate that the unborn are human persons with an inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Relativism provides an excuse to deny and silence the truth, allowing truths like the dignity of the human person to simply be ignored. This philosophy worked for Hitler, for Stalin, for the Southern slaveowners, and today, it works for the abortion industry.

Thus, to truly end abortion, we must first return to the truth, the full truth, and the absolute truth. And that starts with us. To quote Benedict XVI again, “The evangelization of culture is all the more important in our times, when a ‘dictatorship of relativism’ threatens to obscure the unchanging truth about man’s nature, his destiny and his ultimate good.”

By Michael Greene

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Michael is an 11th grade homeschool student in Phoenix, AZ. His essay is in response to the question: *How does moral relativism distort the dignity of the human person as it relates to the sanctity of life?*

Michael has won a \$1000.00 scholarship to the 2024 National March for Life in Washington, DC from Arizona Life Coalition, and presented his essay at the 2023 Arizona March for Life.

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