

# life matters

## “Will God forgive me if I have an abortion?”

Vol. 16, No. 2

a publication of

**Life Matters**  
WORLDWIDE

P.O. Box 3158

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

(616) 257-6800

1-800-968-6086

[www.lifemattersww.org](http://www.lifemattersww.org)

[staff@lifemattersww.org](mailto:staff@lifemattersww.org)

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Christians do sin, and God does forgive.<sup>1</sup> Countless women testify of finding forgiveness in Christ after an abortion. But we ought never, by our assurances of God’s mercy and grace, appear to advise or condone willful sin.

We can’t presume someone who plots murder – whether she thinks of it that way or not – is a true believer.<sup>2</sup> The lifestyle that brings a woman to the brink of abortion shows she may not be a “follower of God” because those born of God do not continue in (“practice”) sin.<sup>3</sup> She should examine herself to see whether she is in the faith, clarify her understanding of the Gospel, and consider her danger.<sup>4</sup>

Aside from presuming upon God’s forgiveness, if she persists in an abortion-plan she also presumes upon

herself, but she may not be as ready and willing to seek God’s grace after her abortion. She may be so overcome by guilt that she turns from God. Or she may become so hardened that she forgets to ask for His mercy. She may also become so preoccupied with the consequences of her sin that her life spirals viciously downward.

What advice can we give a Christian who is tempted by abortion? First, she should be exhorted to consider her actions in light of God’s holiness. Then she should be challenged to turn her thoughts from “Will God *forgive me* if I have an abortion?” to “How can God *help me* avoid the sin of abortion?”

### DON’T ‘dis’ God

God is completely holy. He cannot ignore sin. His holiness demands justice, and that was only satisfied by His Son’s death on the cross.

Grace and mercy came at a terrible cost. Therefore we must not succumb to the spirit of our age that says, “It’s better to ask forgiveness later than seek permission beforehand.”

Counsel the tempted person on some important DOs and DON’Ts. First the DON’Ts:

- **Don’t DISbelieve God** by saying, “I don’t think He can help me avoid having an abortion.”
- **Don’t DISobey God** by refusing to follow His commands concerning the life of your unborn child.
- **Don’t DIShonor God** by continuing to sin while calling yourself a Christian.

### DO explore God's goodness

As dark and desperate as a woman’s situation may be, she can be encouraged by the story of Hagar, who grew in her understanding of a gracious God during a difficult pregnancy.<sup>5</sup> God saw Hagar in her distress, had a plan for her and her baby, and provided for all their needs. A woman tempted by abortion can . . .

- **Thank God** for placing in her heart the conviction that abortion is wrong.
- **Trust God** to reveal a way of escaping the temptation to abort. He has promised to provide it! Jesus invites her to come boldly before His Throne in just such times of need. His mercy and grace are available for strengthening her to overcome temptation.<sup>6</sup>
- **Seek God’s guidance** and accept the help of others to discover alternatives to abortion that may have been overlooked. Perhaps that help can come through you!

Abortion is never a solution to any problem. If God is great enough to *forgive* abortion, isn’t He also great enough to *help* women avoid it?

They can trust Him with their lives, and with the lives of their babies. Let’s encourage one another to live in faith!<sup>7</sup>

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