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a publication of

**Life Matters**  
WORLDWIDE

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## Q Does God forgive the sin of abortion?

**A** The simple answer is yes. Many people who've had abortions, or assisted others in getting abortions, have found peace with God.

But how can we know this is true, since the Bible doesn't mention abortion? We know because of what abortion is and what the Bible reveals about God.

**First, what is abortion?** Abortion ends a preborn human life. Throughout the Bible, God speaks of preborn humans as persons.<sup>1</sup> Even though they're hidden from us, God sees the preborn and loves them. He has a plan for them and a relationship with them.

The science of embryology reveals that preborn children are alive, growing, and distinct from their mothers. They have their own, unique, human DNA.

The unborn child is human because his or her parents are human, and the Bible says all human beings are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27).

Because human beings are special to God, we must answer to Him if we end the life of another human being at any stage of development.<sup>2</sup> Those who participate in an abortion are accountable to God.

Praise be to God, forgiveness is fully and freely available through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

**How is God's nature relevant?** God is holy and does not let any sin go unpunished. The penalty for sin is death. It must be paid, because God is just.

But since God's love is so great, He also desires to forgive us (Exodus 34:6-7). He sent His own sinless Son to die in our place as the sacrifice for all sin. All who believe in Jesus and call on His name will be saved and enjoy relationship with God forever!<sup>3</sup>

So does God forgive people who've ended another person's life? Let's look at some biblical examples:

- King David committed sexual sin with Bathsheba and she became pregnant. To cover up his sin, he had her husband killed. When he confessed these sins to God, he was forgiven (2 Samuel 11-12).
- The apostle Peter urged the people who had crucified Jesus to repent and be forgiven (Acts 3:13-19).
- Saul tracked Christians down in order to have them executed. He thought he was doing God's will, but he was wrong. Jesus forgave him, and he became a missionary (Acts 9 and 26).

There's another example in Luke 7:36-50. We don't know the background of the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears, but the Bible says she had to be "forgiven much."

Consistent with His Father's character, Jesus didn't push her away, but neither did He ignore her sinfulness. He accepted her tears and defended her from accusers. He told her she was forgiven.

She could leave the encounter confident that God no longer held her sins against her. Jesus fully paid her debt on the cross.

## Do you also have much to be forgiven?

Do you seek assurance that Jesus forgave your entire debt of sin, including abortion? Confess your sinfulness to God and then rest in the reality of His forgiveness. These passages are helpful: Romans 8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 John 1:9-2:2. And then, as Jesus said to other sinners, He also says to us: "Go and sin no more!"<sup>4</sup>

The question of whether forgiveness after abortion is possible is on the minds of many people who contact Life Matters Worldwide. If that's your question too, we'd love to hear from you. Email [help@lifemattersww.org](mailto:help@lifemattersww.org).

<sup>1/</sup> Genesis 16:11-12, 25:22-24; Judges 13:4-5; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:15, 41; Galatians 1:15-16. <sup>2/</sup> Gen. 9:5-6, Exodus 20:13. <sup>3/</sup> Ephesians 2:1-10; Romans 10:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; 1 John 1:7-2:3. <sup>4/</sup> John 5:14 and 8:11.

### MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:

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- **Will God forgive me if I have an abortion?** [lifemattersww.org/Need-Help/Questions-about-abortion/Will-God-Forgive-Me](http://lifemattersww.org/Need-Help/Questions-about-abortion/Will-God-Forgive-Me)
- **Can women who've had abortions be right with God?** [lifemattersww.org/Need-Help/Find-post-abortion-help/Already-Aborted](http://lifemattersww.org/Need-Help/Find-post-abortion-help/Already-Aborted)



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