



God & the pregnant teen

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a publication of

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

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A YOUNG WOMAN CALLED OUR OFFICE IN DISTRESS. She was pregnant and thinking about having an abortion, even though she knew it would be wrong.

One of her worries was how she would care for a child financially. Another concern was for her mother and youth pastor. Both had taught her that sex outside marriage is wrong and she didn't want to disappoint them.

She's not alone in thinking abortion will hide sexual sin. Even though teens and young adults don't always follow biblical teaching, they are hearing it. Sadly they may not also hear the message that parents and churches will help them avoid abortion, no matter what. As a result, babies are aborted.

Christian teachings about sex and pregnancy are closely intertwined and require careful articulation. Two messages must be expressed in tandem with equal force: "We don't want you to commit sexual sin AND we don't want you to compound that sin by taking the life of your baby." A third message about willingness to help should quickly follow.

It's safe to assume that, although the caller's mom and youth pastor would be disappointed to learn of her sexual sin, they'd be even more grieved if she had an abortion. Churches that teach what the Bible says about sex also believe abortion is wrong.

Conservative parents and churches don't want their teachings to be the reason a preborn baby is killed. They seek the best for young people, hoping they will put aside sinful behaviors and be restored to fellowship with God and the church family. Abortion is a barrier to reconciliation.

Faith & the sovereignty of God in pregnancy

The caller also wondered why she'd gotten pregnant, and whether it was punishment from God.

The answers to "why me?" and "why now?" (or "why not me?") are known only to God. His reasons are a profound mystery.

The Bible teaches that God is the Source of life. He is involved in every pregnancy and no baby is an accident or unplanned. It is by His grace that children survive gestation, labor, and birth. Indeed, it is by His breath that we continue living.

Parenthood is a test for anyone. Few couples feel ready, even if they are married and have good jobs and a beautiful home. Child-rearing requires a daily exercise of faith in matters trivial and monumental. Teen pregnancy is, therefore, an opportunity for faith to grow and for everyone to learn that nothing is too hard for God.¹

Instead of asking why, pregnant teens and those who love them can consider what God is doing:

- What are His plans for this baby?

- What might He do in the life of the pregnant teen to increase her faith?

If we believe God is in control, and that life is a gift, then parents and churches must exercise faith in accepting the child and helping his or her teenage mother.

God's design for family life

Sex outside marriage endangers everyone involved, especially any children who might be conceived. Women are at risk of abortion or raising children alone. Young men risk financial entanglement with multiple women. Babies are at risk of abortion.

While marriage may not be an option for every pregnant teen, it does offer stability and security. It is God's design for sex.

Aside from marriage or parenting, adoption could be a viable option. In the story of redemption, God shows us its benefits. He adopts believers as full heirs.² Since God builds His family this way, parents and churches can help pregnant teens by presenting adoption in a positive light.

MESSAGES OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE—combined with the truth about sexual sin and abortion—will help to keep young people on the right path and restore them when they've strayed.

1. Genesis 18:14. 2. Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:5, Ephesians 1:5.



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