



# **Abortion: Discussing the Facts of Life**

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# Discovering the Facts of Life

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Abortion is a very real issue that thousands of men, women, and children face on a daily basis throughout our country. The practice of abortion has become increasingly prevalent in our society. There are currently over 3000 abortions per day in our country. Since the legalization of abortion, child abuse has increased 400-500 percent in the United States. Abortion is no longer a last resort in a dire situation, but is often a preferred method of birth control. The most common reasons people give for choosing abortion are: the high cost of children, the interference children cause in one's lifestyle, the burden of single parenting, and pressure from sexual partners to terminate the pregnancy. The negative consequences of abortion in our country range from the devaluing of human life to the legalization of murder.

As Christians we must know how to respond to the issue of abortion not with an attitude of condemnation and self-righteousness rather with an attitude of grace, mercy, love, and forgiveness. Our desire is to see the lives of people transformed by Jesus Christ and for people to experience His forgiveness for their sins leading them to a fresh start in the right direction.

## **Statistics on Abortion**

- More than 3,000,000 unintended pregnancies occur every year in the United States.
- 1 in 3 women in the United States have had an abortion by the time they are 45 years old.
- 1 out of 5 pregnancies in America end in Abortion.
- Abortion is the #1 cause of death annually in the United States - more than heart disease and cancer deaths combined. More than 88 times the number of homicides.
- Each year, almost 1 million teenage women become pregnant.

- Among teenage women there are 736 abortions for every 1000 births
- Among married women, abortions now exceed births.
- Since Roe vs. Wade - Supreme Court legalizing abortion in 1973, 50 million Americans have been killed by abortion... that's more lives lost than all of the war casualties in American history.
- Abortion occurs over 3,000 times every single day in America...that amounts to an abortion - a death of a child - every 20 seconds... which is obviously anything but rare.
- 1 out of 4 families in America are affected in some way by abortion.
- 97% of abortions are *not* because of rape or incest or *not* because the life of the mother is at risk.
- In Indiana there are now over 11,000 abortions per year, with over 7,000 of those in Marion County, each year... that's over 30 abortions a day... in Indiana.

### **Source of Statistics:**

- <http://www.bethany.org/A55798/bethanyWWW.ns/f/0/4945A7A54204F6EE85256D1A004E526A>
- Indiana Crises Pregnancy Center President Brian Boone - Sermon delivered at University Heights Christian Church - 03-30-08

## **Questions We Encounter With Abortion**

Many times Christians do not know how to discuss the abortion with friends and family members that might be considering abortion as an option. Each adult should do more research on his/her own in order to be more prepared for future discussion on this topic. The following questions are some of the most commonly asked questions among adults and we have provided how you might respond from a Christian perspective.

## When does life really begin?

The Bible and science both agree with the fact that human life begins at the moment of conception. Our society has led many people to believe that human life is only considered relevant and alive after the baby leaves the mother's womb, living and breathing. This is simply not true.

**Psalm 139:13-16** – For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

The Bible is clear that from the moment of conception God begins crafting and creating unique and special characteristics for each human being. Science agrees!

- **Professor Micheline Matthews-Roth** of Harvard University Medical School argues, "It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception."
- **Dr. Alfred M. Bongioanni**, professor of obstetrics at the University of Pennsylvania, states, "I have learned from my earliest medical education that human life begins at the time of conception. I submit that human life is present throughout this entire sequence from conception to adulthood and that any interruption at any point throughout this time constitutes a termination of human life."

## **Are there really health risks with an abortion?**

There are numerous health risks associated with an abortion yet many women are led to believe that it is as healthy as any form of birth control on the market. The health risks can be complicated and last the rest of a woman's life.

### **Health risks:**

**Breast cancer:** A 1994 study in the Journal of the national Cancer Institute found: "Among women who had been pregnant at least once, the risk of breast cancer in those who had experienced an induced abortion was 50% higher than among other women."

**Effects on future pregnancies:** scarring or other injuries during an abortion may prevent or place at risk future pregnancies. The risk of miscarriage is greater for women who abort their first baby.

### **Emotional Impact: on Mothers ( Post-Abortion Stress):**

- guilt
- anger
- anxiety
- depression
- suicidal thoughts
- anniversary grief
- flashbacks of abortion
- sexual dysfunction
- relationship problems
- eating disorders
- alcohol and drug abuse

### **Fathers and extended family:**

There is prolonged anger over powerlessness and long-lasting guilt over having pressured woman to have an abortion. There are also ongoing feelings of loss.

### **Spiritual Consequences:**

Fear of heaven. This stems from the idea that their aborted child is somehow standing next to God and pointing a finger of retribution down toward her.

It is a fact that guilt and feelings of shame create a feeling of distance between women who choose abortion and God. This makes it harder for these women to overcome their shame and come to God to experience His forgiveness.

## Is there forgiveness for someone who has an abortion?

We live in a society where many people will have different opinions upon whether or not abortion is a sin. As Christians, we must not let society overshadow what the Word of God declares.

**Exodus 20:13 (NIV)** – You shall not murder

According to the Word of God, abortion is the taking of a human life and therefore it is a sin against God. Both Christians and non-Christians alike make this choice and live with this choice for the rest of their lives. Some live with much shame and guilt for many years and become convinced that God will never forgive them for the choice they made to abort a human life. God promises us that forgiveness can be found and is ready to be given to all those who come to Him, repent, and seek His forgiveness.

**Acts 3:19** – Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...

**1 John 1:9** – "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us of all unrighteousness."

## **Chronological development of a baby**

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Many people do not understand what happens during the development of a baby. Science has proven the fact that God does knit us together in our mother's womb from the moment of conception. The following list shows the chronological development of a baby.

### **1st week (1st month)**

Sex of baby is determined.

Genetic traits are determined.

Embryo travels from fallopian tube to the uterus.

### **2nd week (1st month)**

Egg is implanted on the wall of the uterus.

Placenta develops.

### **3rd week (1st month)**

Heart begins to develop, 18-25 days.

Brain begins to develop.

Intestinal tract begins to develop.

### **4th - 5th weeks (1st month)**

Vertebra begins to develop.

Blood flow begins.

Eye development begins.

Arm and leg development begins.

### **6 & 7th week (1 - 2 months)**

Fingers and the toes appear.

Nose, ears, develop.

Joints are developing.

All essential organs are developing.

Eyelids form.

### **8th week (2 months)**

Muscle contraction occurs.

Facial features become more prominent.

Heart has four chambers.

### **9th - 12th week (2 - 3 months)**

The baby is about 3 inches long.

The neck develops.

Arms and legs begin to lengthen.

### **13th - 16th weeks (3 - 4 months)**

The baby is about 6 inches.

The baby moves.

Lungs develop.

If female, the ovaries contain about 2 million eggs.

The baby can suck its thumb.

### **17th - 20th weeks (4 - 5 months)**

The baby is about 8 inches.

Nails on fingers and toes form.

Movement can be felt by mother.

The circulatory system is working.

### **21st - 24th weeks (5 - 6 months)**

The baby is about 11 inches long.

The baby weighs about 1.5 pounds.

Fingerprints form.

The baby can hear and react to sounds from outside the womb.

### **25th - 28th weeks (6 - 7 months)**

The baby is about 15 inches long.

The baby weighs about 2.5 pounds.

Survivability outside the womb is possible.

The baby can react to light from outside the womb.

### **29th - 32nd weeks (7 - 8 months)**

The baby is about 16 inches long.

The baby weighs about 4.5 pounds.

All bones are fully developed.

### **33rd - 40th weeks (8 - 9 months)**

The baby is about 18 - 21 inches long.

The baby weighs about 6 - 8 pounds.

The baby is ready to be born.

Sleep patterns are apparent.

### **Sources:**

- [allhealth.com](http://allhealth.com)

## **How Parents Can Respond to Teens**

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It is now legal for a teenage girl to get an abortion in the majority of the continental United States without getting medical permission from a parent. Each year, almost 1 million teenage women become pregnant with almost 4 out of every 10 of these pregnancies ending in an abortion. Parents need to know how to respond. The following suggestions and questions are provided for parents to begin this important dialogue with their teenagers.

### **Family Devotions:**

Despite our hectic schedules it is imperative that families stay connected and grow in their faith together. Begin a time of devotions with your family this week. This time can be very meaningful to your children as they see mom and dad modeling their faith.

## **Suggested Readings:**

Sunday-Ephesians 4:29-32, Monday-Ephesians 5:1-7,  
Tuesday-Philippians 2:4-5, Wednesday-Philippians 2:12-16a,  
Thursday-2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, Friday-Colossians 3:1-4,  
Saturday-1 John 4:16-21

## **QUESTIONS TEENS MAY HAVE ABOUT ABORTION:**

### **Is it better to have an abortion than to be a teen parent?**

Abortion and parenting are not the only options. Adoption is another available option. There are literally thousands of families waiting to adopt a child. The more important question is to ask “what would God want me to do?”

### **Is abortion really murder?**

While this has been constantly debated, perhaps the question we should ask is having an abortion wrong? The Bible refers to life in the womb and also tells us we should love others as ourselves. Jesus clearly taught that we should do to others what we would want done to us (Matthew 7:12). Obviously having an abortion doesn't practice the love that we as Christians preach.

### **Is it ever OK to have an abortion? (Special circumstances)**

Two wrongs have never made a right and fixing our trials with sin has never been ok in Scripture. While the 'what if' game may lead to some poor emotional decisions, we know that everyone reaps what they sow. Living faithfully for God means being faithful even in the special circumstances when doing the right thing is very difficult.

# How Parents Can Respond to Young Children

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It is absolutely important that every parent considers first and foremost each child's level of maturity and ability to handle such information. If you choose to tell, be age-appropriate in discussing abortion with your children. Teens or young adults may be able to handle details that would not be appropriate to share with young children. The decision to talk about abortion should be considered only after deep discernment and prayer.

Here are some questions that might come up and some answers that you could give. Please feel free to tailor them to fit the conversation and your child's understanding.

## **What is an abortion?**

Sometimes when mommies have a baby growing inside them the baby dies. Sometimes the baby dies on accident, (miscarriage) and sometimes a mommy might decide not to have the baby born and it dies. When a mommy decides not to have the baby born it is called an abortion.

## **What does God think about this?**

God would not like it because every life is special to Him. God made each baby to look and be like Him. God was the one to make you while you were growing in your mommy's tummy, (Psalm 134:13-16).

## **What happens to the baby when it dies?**

The babies that die haven't done anything wrong. God loves them very much and the baby will be able to be with God in His hands forever.

# The Issue of Abortion Matters

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When you vote this year, remember the one defining issue that supersedes all other issues combined. The one issue we voters must consider is national defense. If we do not protect ourselves from harm, especially the loss of life, none of the other issues will matter.

The most important issue for the coming election is how the President plans to protect us. Since the greatest harm to our citizens is premature death, the first responsibility of the President is to protect us from physical destruction by other human beings.

The President's commitment to protection should extend to everyone, no matter how old or young, strong or weak, big or small, or powerful or weak. Some Presidential candidates do not intend to fulfill this responsibility. These candidates sanction the killing of the most innocent and vulnerable among us who cannot protect themselves.

In the past three decades millions have died because we have elected Presidents who have appointed Supreme Court justices who sanction the destruction of the unborn. Our Justices have allowed people to remove the right of millions of women to choose.

Most terminations of life are perpetrated on females by the consent of other females. Every aborted female has lost her right to choose. The foundation of our republic is that no one should be allowed to rob other people of their God-given rights. As Christians we must protect the rights of our people--all our people. Citizens must elect a President who commits to protect everyone, especially the defenseless.