

When Does Life Begin?

Life doesn't begin at the point of delivery when the baby takes its first breath. Within three weeks of conception, that little life within you has developed a brain, a beating heart, and tiny limbs that are beginning to "sprout" and move about. During this time, your unborn will grow from a *zygote* to *embryo* to *fetus* ... just as a newborn grows from *child* to *adolescent* to *adult*. ...

*"You [God] created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb."
(Psalm 139:13)*

- **Wrong Belief:** "I have the right to decide what to do with my own body. I'm afraid that having this baby will destroy my future happiness."

Right Belief: "God has a plan for the child in my womb. My unborn baby is loved by the Lord and is an expression of His love for me. I'm choosing to trust the Lord to meet my deepest inner needs."

*"My God will meet all your needs
according to the riches of his glory in Christ glory."
(Philippians 4:19)*

- **Love:** God loves me, and He will provide healthy, loving relationships for me and for my baby.
- **Significance:** The Lord will accomplish His goals and His plans for my life and for my child's life.
- **Security:** Because the Lord is in control of my life, I can count on Him to walk with me and my baby each step of the way.

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not
sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you
will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.
... Everyone who is called by my name ...
I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."
(Isaiah 43:2, 7)*

How to Weigh Your Options

Before considering abortion, honestly answer the following questions and carefully consider the accompanying truths.

- Are you afraid that the response of others will be ridicule or rejection?
Realize ... it is wiser to fear the response of God than the response of people.
- Are you being pressured, especially by your parents, the baby's father, or abortion counselors?
Realize ... there is no easy way out, and doing what God says is more important than doing what people say.
- Are you wanting to escape the reminder that you made a major mistake?
Realize ... God wants your child to be a reminder of His sovereignty and His purposes, not of your mistake.
- Are you reluctant to bring an unwanted child into this world?
Realize ... every child is wanted by God, and you can choose to want to have your child.
- Are you concerned about possible health problems of the baby?
Realize ... the value of life is not related to the health of the baby but to the God-given value placed on this baby by the Creator of life.
- Are you viewing abortion as a form of birth control?
Realize ... abortion kills a life, which is different from preventing the conception of a life.
- Are you wanting to get rid of a baby who is a result of a wrongful act such as rape or incest?
Realize ... your baby is innocent of any wrongful act and is undeserving of the death penalty.

Terminating an innocent life will not end your grief but will rather compound grief with guilt. ...

*"There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death."
(Proverbs 14:12)*

How to Walk with Wisdom

Write down your thoughts and feelings, admitting your anxiety, confessing any guilt, and casting your cares on the Lord.
“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6–7).

Imagine what life would be like for you and your baby in the next year and ten years from now if you followed each option (abortion, parenting, adoption).
“The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception” (Proverbs 14:8).

Sort through your options in terms of what God has revealed about your baby’s life and what is best for your child.
“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart” (Jeremiah 1:5).

Develop a support structure of family and friends.
“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity” (Proverbs 17:17).

Obtain godly counsel that lines up with what God says in His Word.
“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you” (Psalm 32:8).

Make a decision to entrust your future and your baby’s future to the Lord.
“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5–6).

*“The advantage of knowledge is this:
Wisdom preserves those who have it.”*
(Ecclesiastes 7:12)

Key Verse to Memorize

“He will bless the fruit of your womb.”
(Deuteronomy 7:13)

Key Passage to Read

Psalm 139

For Family and Friends ... Encouragement in Pain

- **Call** the entire family and closest friends together, talk through the situation, share feelings, and pray for the entire family. (Galatians 6:2)
- **Concentrate** on the positive by keeping an ongoing list of every valuable aspect of the situation. (Philippians 4:8)
- **Count** on various forms of rejection. Do not expect others to accept the circumstances or to support your decisions during this difficult time. (Psalm 27:10–11)
- **Cherish** God’s Word in your heart and meditate on Scripture for your source of strength and security. (Psalm 119:50)
- **Cast** every care upon God in prayer, thanking Him for what He will do in your situation. (Psalm 55:22)
- **Cultivate** consistency through a normal family routine—don’t stop functioning as a family unit. (1 Corinthians 14:33)
- **Choose** forgiveness—letting go of the past and pursuing peace. (Colossians 3:13)
- **Claim** this as an opportunity to be used for God’s glory and for the good of your family. (2 Corinthians 5:17–18)
- **Come** to accept that these changes in your life are permanent. (Psalm 138:8)

Dos and Don’ts for Family and Friends

- **Don’t** use shame.
Do ... Give emotional support. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- **Don’t** be judgmental or condemning.
Do ... See the immense need for a real friend. (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10)
- **Don’t** be surprised by the anger you feel.
Do ... Expect to feel anger as a natural response to injustice, hurt, fear, and frustration. But then resolve your anger by giving it to God. (Ephesians 4:26)
- **Don’t** hold on to hopes and dreams that are no longer possible.
Do ... Let go of the past and trust God for the future. (Isaiah 43:18–19)
- **Don’t** accept responsibility for the final decision.
Do ... Listen and discuss available options and their consequences. (Romans 14:12)
- **Don’t** pressure yourself or be pressured by others to make unwise decisions.
Do ... Trust in the Lord to lead you. (Proverbs 3:5–6)

God's Heart on Unplanned Pregnancy

- God is the author of life. (Deuteronomy 32:39)
- God opens and closes the womb. (Genesis 29:31; 1 Samuel 1:5)
- God ordains all pregnancies—regardless of the circumstances. (Isaiah 44:24)
- God creates every life. (Deuteronomy 32:6)
- God never formed a life without having plans for that life. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Questions and Answers

“In the midst of this unplanned pregnancy, will I ever have inner peace?”

With God, inner peace is always possible, even in the midst of your problems and fears. Just remember, no problem is too big for God to solve! Jesus, as the Prince of Peace, wants to *be peace* for you. Regardless of your fears and problems, you can have His *inner peace* when you have His *inner presence*. Jesus said ...

*“In me you may have peace.
In this world you will have trouble.
But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*
(John 16:33)

“Shouldn't every child be a wanted child?”

Although an unborn baby may not be wanted by the mother or the father, no baby is unwanted by God. The Bible says that God knows every child and has plans for every child—even before conception. He says ...

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart.”*
(Jeremiah 1:5)

“What does God think of me for being sexually active and not married? How can He forgive me for becoming pregnant and bringing so much hurt and embarrassment to my family?”

Your pregnancy has not taken God by surprise. Although He knew this situation would occur in your life, He never has wavered nor will He ever waver in His love for you. His feelings for you are those of compassion, not condemnation. And if you allow Him, He will restore your life and give you new meaning and purpose.

*“[God] redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion.”*
(Psalm 103:4)

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The information in this resource is intended as guidelines for healthy living. Please consult qualified medical, legal, pastoral, and psychological professionals regarding individual concerns.

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