



Boston Catholic Journal

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Questions & Answers



about *Authentic Catholic Teaching*

QUESTION:

- **If I get an Abortion will God understand? What are my options?**

Hi there,

Please help me ! My life is in a mess, this time I have blown it, that's for sure! I am just turned 17, raised a Catholic, although I haven't been to church for ages. I think church is actually so, so boring! I can't believe that this is happening to me, but I have just discovered that I am already 3 months pregnant! If my parents know this I'm sure they will throw me out. My mom happens to mind what the neighbors will say and all that stuff !

The worst of it is this, I don't even know who the father actually is, me and my friends like to go clubbing and have fun., it could be one of a few guys so I can't even say, it's his, or his !

I can't have a baby! I have no job, what have I to offer a child, I want an abortion, in a word I want to get rid of it.

I don't even know why I am hesitating one min I am all ready to grab a taxi and run off to planned parenthood, and the next I feel like maybe its wrong, but is it? the feeling passes but I'm more sure. All I wanted was a bit of fun and I don't see why I should pay for it now and end up

with a baby. God wont expect this of me will he?

I mean surely God wont be mad at me if I do this? will he ? People tell me God is forgiving, well then if I go ahead will God forgive me? I really to want this abortion it will settle my problem and I can get on with my life, also its my life and my space isn't it ?After all I may meet an alright guy, and have a baby later on , its not that I'm saying no baby at all, but not now !

So do you think God will forgive me ? I mean its such early stages, and accept I know in my head I wouldn't even know I was pregnant, but I am.

What shall I do ? I really am desperate.

Thanks a lot, I hope you don't mind me writing but I just happened to see your answer box on the journal, that's a mystery too, how on earth I arrived at the Journal, I Googled for something else entirely!

Deidre
PA

Can you put an answer on your site, please do not mail me at this address in case my Mom sees it, as both my folks use this computer. Thanks a lot.

ANSWER

Dear Deidre,

My name is Bernadette and I am a (young) contributor to the Boston Catholic Journal. The editor asked me to answer your question or at least offer you my advice as a woman. I have read your letter carefully and I want to first say that I am sorry that you have to go through this alone --- I truly can feel your pain. It is so hard to be a woman sometimes ... I know that I am not you and cannot imagine exactly what you are going through at this moment, but I can certainly relate. At one time or another, many woman goes through what you are now experiencing ... some get the answer that they are looking for, and others, like yourself, unfortunately do not. The decision that you are now faced with is probably one of the most difficult ones you will have ever have to deal with in your life, and whatever you choose to do will have an impact on you forever. I know, it is scary.

I was also (as I am sure you can guess) raised a Catholic, and I am very familiar with the teachings of my faith. The values that have been instilled in me since childhood still to this day,

like yourself, affect many of my decisions and thoughts. I am not married, either, and if I found myself in your situation I could not even FATHOM the idea of having and affording a baby. Every woman who has found herself in your situation had probably never anticipated the possibility of having a child out of wedlock. Given all the "easy" solutions to really tough questions --- especially if you are a woman --- that are thrown at you so off-handedly today, obviously the first thought that would enter a woman's mind is that the easiest solution would be to have an abortion. Planned Parenthood makes it look so simple ... so "right" ... and with no consequences! A few hundred dollars and the problem is gone. Right? It would seem to be a simple fix to a big problem. Almost *all* women have this exact thought when faced with this decision. Even though they think about it, I just know that, deep down, many would never be able to go through with it if it weren't presented to them as an easily available, totally acceptable, and entirely guilt-free experience that is "every woman's right", right? Somehow, despite all the slick slogans and glossy brochures passed out in high school, I could never bring myself to see an abortion as a solution I could live with --- simply because there is a child's life at stake, and that little baby has absolutely no voice of it's own.... their life and death it out of their hands.

Thankfully, I have never been in this position, but I know that these are the thoughts that you are having at this moment. I, too, would probably question whether or not God would ever be able to forgive me if I went through with something like that.... Surely He would understand that *now* is not the time! I can't afford it! I am not ready! He *has* to know this, right?! But the truth of the matter is, that He *does* know this, He *knows* everything, and He knows that you and I know that it is a terrible sin to have an abortion, because after all, it is a little baby we are talking about. HOWEVER, He also knows your pain, and knows that you are now faced with a very difficult decision, which is why, I believe, God wants me to help you figure out your options and what you can do. Now *we* (because hopefully you will accept my help and advice... because I am more than happy to help you with this, today, tomorrow, whenever..) must figure out what options exist.

In my opinion, you have *three options*. However, I do not think that "option number one" is the right one for you. Option two may be, but based on your letter and what you have said about your parents and your situation, it might not be the easiest. I think that *option three* has your name written all over it :)

1) Abortion -- easy? Kindda. The right choice? I hope you will come to realize, no, it is not...Not simply for the sake of the baby, but for your own sake. Abortions may seem easy, but in fact they are VERY complicated. Many women who have abortions have a VERY difficult time coping afterwards. Whether it is because of the sickness the follows, or the mental and emotional damage. It is hard to face the fact that you have 'terminated' a pregnancy. The words are tough to swallow, and many women mentally suffer after the operation. They wonder if they will ever be able to get pregnant again, wonder if they could have managed a baby, if their lives would somehow be better, they have a difficult time actually SEEING children. If you do the research, the truth is not very pretty.

2) Keeping your baby -- easy? Absolutely NOT. The right choice? Perhaps ... perhaps not ... Based on what I have read in your letter, your parents would not support your decision to keep the child. You are only 17 and are probably not financially ready to support a child, though there are agencies out there to help (and colleges that offer support and child care if you are planning of furthering your education). The truth is, which I am sure you already know, having a baby is a huge responsibility, one that requires a lot of time, energy, money and effort. However, what you get *in return* is a beautiful little child that loves and depends on you and doesn't care how old you are or how much money you have. This option is by far the most difficult, and again, I am not sure if it is the best for you, only you can decide that.

Finally, in my opinion, the best option for you:

3) ADOPTION! Easy? Kindda! The right choice? It may be! I think that adoption is perfect for you for a number of reasons:

A) You seem very worried about what your parents are going to think and say. I really think that your parents would probably not be so hard on you. They would not have to help you support the child. They would see that you are making an educated, responsible, and mature decision. They would not have to worry about you and how it would have an effect of your life, because really, it would not be that difficult. True, you would have to carry the baby for 9 months and go to doctors appointments and things, but that is all relatively EASY compared to the last two options! I am VERY sure that if you told your parents that you were pregnant and have thought things over and that you think it is the BEST thing for both you and the child to give it up for adoption, they would be supportive of your decision.... and if they are not, keep reading what I have to say....

B) Obviously, you are worried about yourself and the impact this will have on your life. If you give this baby up for adoption you will not have to worry about how to afford it, who the father is, what you have to offer it, ANYTHING! You can move forward with your life in a few months and feel GOOD about your decision! You did not have an abortion, you let the child live! You can go to college! Get a great education! Get a great job! Meet a great guy! And when you are ready, have a family with the man who loves you and who wants to support you and the baby! It is absolutely possible! You would know that your child is in good hands and is taken care of and happy.... you never know who they will become or what good things they will do :) Both your lives will be the better for it.

C) It really is easy to do. All you have to do is contact an adoption agency. If you need help, I will certainly do some research and help you find one in your area. YOU get to pick which parents are right for your baby! You will actually have couples competing for you! Once you find the parents you think will best raise your child, THEY will be there to support you the whole way, EVEN IF YOUR PARENTS DONT! THEY will often schedule, pay, and COME to doctors appointments with you! THEY will always be checking up on you! THEY will make sure you are doing well and have what you need! THEY WILL BE THERE WITH YOU THE ENTIRE PROCESS, BECAUSE THEY WILL TRULY CARE ABOUT YOU AND THE

BABY. There are *soooo* many wonderful couples out there who would DO ANYTHING to have a child of their own, but for some reason, they cannot. Imagine their pain when they found out they COULDN'T have a child. I am sure they, too, were questioning God ... "WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME? WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME? GOD, DO YOU NOT WANT ME TO BE A PARENT?!" Now the obvious question is, why WOULDN'T you want to help them? I hope that you are beginning to see how this REALLY is the right choice for you.... I hope that you are beginning to realize that option one is NOT the only option for you, that there is, in fact, a MUCH BETTER OPTION just waiting for you to make your move!

I really, sincerely hope that this helped. Please, feel free to contact me directly or the BCJ site if there is anything else I can do to help. Please, do not be afraid to accept my help and know that I am here to help you in whatever way I can. I will certainly keep you in my prayers and look forward to hopefully hearing a response from you soon!

Your new friend,

Bernadette :)

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