



Boston Catholic Journal

www.boston-catholic-journal.com
editor@boston-catholic-journal.com

What does God say about Pregnant Single Mothers?

Dear Journal,

What does God say about pregnant single mothers? To marry or not to marry? I have 8 siblings, 6 of them are girls and 5 of them are married. From all five of them, I cannot say I would prefer to have one marriage over another, I'd prefer not have a marriage at all. All including my mother, have set an example it appears to be as having to be the one to make more sacrifices in the relationship for the sake of the children having their fathers near them (of course they all say they love their husbands still). However, I asked them one day (just the sisters), "Not counting the children, would you do it all over again. Marry the same guy and put up with everything?" All said no except one. As a girlfriend of the father of my coming baby, I am already not willing to put up with many things I see in him. I fear he isn't ready or rather doesn't want to give up on a lot of things that expectant fathers should give up on. But now I fear that perhaps I am being a little too demanding of a partner, in comparison to other girls or even my sisters. I am having trouble wanting to just settle for the norm which constitutes of: the man is a man and he is allowed to have his "manliness" with the society given definition. The women lives to serve her children and husband. My mother had a very rough life, and for many years I refused to believe that she was born to live all that suffering, now I have stop questioning or commenting on her life, I just accept it since it is her life and pertains to her only. However, I don't know that I want to spend a life next to a man and hoping and praying for the day that he will change. We don't share values, goals, and even our morality judgment is very different. Of course because we come from different backgrounds. The other day I shared with him how I needed and wanted to

go to confession and to this he replied, "What did you do?" I chuckled considering that we both participated in the sin of sex and now are pregnant. I love this coming baby and i dont regret it, but i do regret having sin or even with who I sinned with if that makes any sense. I acknowledge my sin, and if this cross of mine commands me to get married than without hesitation i will pick it up and carry it.

P.S. Perhaps you recall of me writing to you earlier. And I took your advice and left the relationship. And well time later he looked for me again and I fell like the common "in-love" girl or rather "in-lust" (i don't even know now) and well now I have a brought a new innocent life into our problems. I don't even know how to tell my baby that I'm sorry.

Lost

Answer:

Dear Lost,

I will answer your first question before addressing others. You ask, "What does God say about pregnant single mothers?" To marry or not to marry is another question; one for which I will offer my own suggestion, and the reasons for it.

So, "What does God say about pregnant single mothers?"

The answer to this is unequivocal and clear, and so God tells you at once and forever:



“I love you, and I love the life within you that I have created. I Alone am the Giver of Life, and *I have chosen you* to cooperate with Me in bringing this life --- *that I have willed* --- to being. That *your will* and *My will* are one --- that the child shall live and be loved --- is itself a sign of blessedness, for holiness consists in this: that *your will* be perfectly one, perfectly in harmony, with *My will* in all things. It is nothing more and nothing less.

In this state of holiness you will find happiness, and apart from it you will never find peace, for you will never possess real happiness. Why? Because always I will *your good*, in this life and in the next; I *will* what is *perfectly good* for you, and what is perfectly *good* for you will bring you *happiness*. There is no happiness apart from what is good, yes?

Oh, there are things pleasurable and they bring you momentary fulfillment, but not happiness. Happiness endures. Pleasure passes. Happiness and pleasure are not the same at all, My Little One. Some pleasures are good, and some are sinful, according to your state in life. Sexual pleasure is good --- within the Sacrament of Marriage, but sinful outside of it.

But you know this already, my daughter --- and in the Sacrament of Penance you have come to Me before. What had you found, my Little One? Mercy, compassion, and forgiveness ... yes? And now you would flee Me ... fear confessing that you have sinned the same sin again? Do you not remember my Only Begotten Son telling Saint Peter who had asked, “Lord, how many times should we forgive our brother? Seven times?” To which My Son answered, “Nay, seventy times seven times!” In other words, as often as forgiveness is asked, it is given --- as long as the heart of the penitent is truly sorry --- and even if she falls into that sin again and again through human weakness, and knows and expresses true sorrow again and again, she is forgiven! Do you think I do not know your weakness and frailty, I Who had created you? Was not My Son, in His Incarnation, like unto thee in all things except sin? He Himself in His sacred humanity intimately knows the weakness of men.

What you are really asking Me, it appears, is this: “Do I still love you, as a woman, and now as a mother, outside of wedlock?” In your heart of hearts you already know the answer to this also. **Yes!** Not a whit less, **and even the more!** --- because you have, apart from your soul that is precious to Me, a new life within you! A life that **I** have given and that you have not spurned! You love whom I love: the one I have created within you! *Love you less?* No! All the more! Not for your sin, but for your love --- your love of Me and of the child I have given thee, that I have entrusted to thee, that you may teach the child to know Me, to love Me, and to serve Me in the world, and to be happy with Me forever in Heaven. This is the charge I have given thee. This is the purpose of the child conceived within you.

Think, my Little One! I know the end of all things ... you do not. I have willed and created life in you. Do I do anything without purpose? Anything that is not totally good? I knew your child long before you were aware of this life within you!

Have no shame, Little One. Remember that My most perfect creation --- Mary --- first conceived My Only Begotten Son **before** she was married! And now I have conferred upon thee the greatest dignity, the most sublime vocation: that of motherhood!”

God Himself, then, answers your first question, and now I will attempt to answer the questions that follow it.

In speaking with your married sisters, you said that, apart from the children, “had they to do it all over again, all, save one, would **not** have chosen to marry.” It appears that in their marriages there is a lack of mutuality, of sharing, giving and taking in turn, in which the husbands are not solicitous of their wives needs, being preoccupied with the fulfillment of their own. I think that this perception is fairly common --- and, regrettably, cuts both ways. In many ways we would like something of a “designer husband” and “designer wife” that we could tailor to our changing desires. Traits and features could be added or detracted to suit us as it pleases us best. Snip away this trait, add that, change one, transform another --- and when they are old and less to our liking

to discard them altogether. It is man and woman, husband and wife, as mere commodities --- and not as the absolutely unique and unrepeatabe persons, human beings, that they are --- and none of them is perfect ... nor are we.

As to the indifference of the husband to the wife, it would be well to carefully read about the *mutual* duties and responsibilities of a man to his wife, and of a wife to her husband, especially in light of the example that Saint Paul sets before us, of Christ's love for the Church, and the Church's love for Christ. (Ephesians, 5.21-31). The husband loves his wife as his own body, ever ready to deliver himself up for her as Christ did for the Church. Saint Paul states it more succinctly, "He that loveth his wife, loveth himself."

Now, to the vitally important question --- a question that you alone must answer: **Should you marry, or not marry?** It is now five years that you have had a relationship with this young man. I have re-read your first letter very carefully, and I will point out a few very important things that you had said within it, in May of 2010, and which appear unchanged to this day, and will likely remain unchanged.

For four years it has been thus. It is now a year later and remains so --- even given the fact that you carry his child. This does not portend well. Perhaps I had told you in my first letter to you that *you can only change yourself --- not another*. Personality traits are particularly intractable almost impossible to extinguish or alter. It is hoping to "design" another person to be other than whom they are. Yes, we want all men, all women, for Christ and His Holy Church! And everyone is invited! But we ourselves, as utterly unique as they are, cannot presume to hope to bring them to Christ or His Church at the cost of our own souls and our own salvation. It is our duty first and foremost to seek the salvation of *our own* souls --- for they alone are totally within our grasp and amenable to our will in a way that the souls of others are not. This is not selfish. Christ Himself told us that we dare not presume to remove the speck in our brother's eye until we have first removed the splinter from our own! No?

We would that we could bring all men to Christ --- and this is a holy desire. Ever we must strive to. And yet it is not given to us to choose whom we bring to God, and away from sin. Most often our example is sufficient to inspire another to seek what we have found, the happiness that comes with faithfulness to God. But it is something that must be freely chosen by another, and all our efforts are in vain if we deceive ourselves that *we* can change another who is either indifferent or antagonistic to our Faith ... by marrying them! This endangers your own soul --- ***and as importantly, the soul of a child*** who may never come to know God or the beauty of the Faith of Holy Mother Church by being exposed to the influence of one who knows neither, or disdains both.

From what you have written, my child, nothing has changed in this young man to make him worthy of you. Because you bear his child (that *God* willed ... not the man) does not obligate your marrying him at all. Some young women feel that a child is an impediment to the prospect of a future relationship and real love. This is not the case at all --- I can testify to that personally from my experience with many young men and women who have met subsequent to the mother's having a child by another --- women who have married worthy and honorable men who have taken the mother's child as their own.

You have done the most loving thing imaginable in keeping and loving this child within you. You will be blessed in him or her. Your happiness will be multiplied, not your sorrow. Cleave to God and place yourself under the mantle of Mary Most Holy --- both will accompany you, and assist you --- and love you, and your child --- all the days of your lives.

God keep you.



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