

# There's life after abortion

## **Abortion is not the end of the road, for mother or baby**

From January 22, 1973, since the Roe versus Wade ruling, to the end of 2005, 46 million babies were aborted in the U.S.A. alone.

It's a horrific statistic - but it doesn't tell the story behind each abortion, does it? Was a mother's life at stake, was she raped by someone with serious diseases, or was she only 14 years old and her parents pressured her into an abortion to protect their reputation?

For many people, however, it doesn't matter what the circumstances were. Abortion can never be justified, full stop. To them, it's murder, plain and simple, and murder of the worst sort, too, the deliberate killing of an innocent child.

But what if the mother is also an innocent child, raped in her early teens by a family member, or by a boy who drugged her at a party? She's pregnant for no fault of her own, and she's not using abortion as a casual form of birth-control, she's simply frightened out of her wits and wants the nightmare over.

Whatever the reason, abortion is a drastic action and an awful decision to make. A life that could have happened, is forcibly terminated.

But is that the end of the road?

No, because God has the power to restore life to the dead (**Matthew 27:51-53**). He can also create new bodies for us (**1 Corinthians 15:42-44**). God has the power, then, to bring an aborted baby back to life. Human death is no obstacle to God.

And neither is human failing.

Humans failed from the very beginning but that never stopped God loving us. He made provision through his Son's death for all us humans to get a shot at eternity (**1 Timothy 2:3-4**), and since we're classed as human beings the instant we are conceived (**Psalms 139:13-16**), that includes aborted babies. God created all human beings with the potential to join him in his eternal family, and no interference by us humans can prevent that. A life aborted, therefore, is not lost forever. Once life has been given, it comes with a chance at eternal life, too.

God also forgives. He is incredibly merciful toward our casual and destructive ways (**Romans 9:22-25**). A mother who's had an abortion, therefore, even for casual

reasons, is not lost forever. One abortion or multiple abortions, Christ's death covers them all.

Does that excuse away abortion?

Absolutely not. How can the deliberate taking of a human life with all its incredible potential stretching out into eternity, be excusable? God forgives, yes, but not to give us excuse to be casual (**Romans 6:1-2**). God forgives so we can put our messed up lives behind us (**Romans 2:4**) and start out on new lives where things can be different (**Acts 3:19, 26**). And if that's what a mother wants, then God's forgiveness is instant. Abortion is not excusable, but it's not unforgivable, either.

In the loss of a life, it may be the start of a new life too, because Jesus didn't come to call the righteous to repentance, he came for sinners (**Luke 5:30-32**), to people whose lives have been shattered by circumstance and weakness (**Luke 4:18-19**). He didn't come to condemn, he came to heal and restore (**John 3:17**). Would Jesus, then, condemn a girl who gets pregnant with an unwanted baby and out of desperation has that baby aborted? No. His answer would be: "I don't condemn you, but don't do it again (**John 8:11**)." He didn't condone human frailty, but he didn't condemn it, either. His approach with people who'd messed up their lives was to give them a chance to repent and change, and start again.

And in among the mothers who abort their babies are those who deeply regret what they've done, who now need reassurance that all is not lost.

Jesus offers that reassurance. He may not remove all the consequences of an abortion, either physically or emotionally, but he offers understanding, compassion and the chance for a mother to start afresh, free of fear and guilt.

There is life after abortion, then - for both the mother and her aborted baby - because of God's incredible mercy. Can a mother then use that mercy to get on with her life, knowing she's loved by God no matter what she's done, and value any baby she might have in future like Jesus values her?