

The Twin Towers: Teen Pregnancy and Abortion

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Age: 17

Grade: 12

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Julie was a 15-year-old girl with great ambition. She was like every other teenage girl at her school. She went to the movies, shopped on the weekends, and was involved a lot with her school. In addition, she had a loving boyfriend, whom she agreed with that they would spend the rest of their lives together. They planned to have a baby after college when they would be able to support the child. Basically, life was good for Julie and her boyfriend. Until one day, Julie took a pregnancy test and found out that she was pregnant. She could not believe it at all. From that point on, everything went downhill. Julie's boyfriend became irresponsible and left Julie with their child. They have not talked to each other since that day. Julie now was stuck with the fact that she has to finish high school, go to college, and get a good job to support her baby. Now do you think that would be easy for Julie to accomplish? I personally do not think so. Julie has regretted the fact that she rejected what her parents had taught her and has vowed to teach her child that what she did was wrong. Now, Julie has learned her lesson the hard way. However, we must immediately emphasize to teens the rigors of teen pregnancy before they go through what Julie was going through. Therefore, I believe that teen pregnancy is totally wrong and that teens should try their absolute best to practice sexual abstinence, otherwise their life would be a living nightmare.

First of all, let us consider the vast responsibilities of being a teen parent. Now, when teens think they are ready for a baby or want to have sex, they forget the great responsibilities presented to them when they have this baby. The most obvious responsibility is supporting the baby, which encompasses many things. First of all, you have to have some source of income or basically get a job in order to buy food, baby supplies such as diapers and cradles, and pay for bills. Not only that, but you must attend school as well. If you do not finish at least your high school education, getting a job will be almost impossible. So imagine having to go to school and

go to work at the same time. That will be an extremely rough day for a teenage girl or boy. Unfortunately though, the responsibilities do not stop there. You also have to actually take care of the baby. When it cries at night, no matter how tired you are, you have to wake up and caress it until it stops. In addition, you have to change the baby's diapers when they, in proper terms, secrete waste. You also have to feed your baby when they are hungry and bring them to the doctor when they need health shots and when they are sick. Therefore, the responsibilities of a teen parent are obviously immense compared to regular teen attends school. I wonder how many hours of sleep teen parents are able to achieve every night because of their busy schedule. I advise that teens should consider their responsibilities of a teen parent before even thinking about having sex.

Secondly, the disadvantages of being a teen parent are numerous. The odds of having a successful life when being a teen parent are totally against you. The first disadvantage of being a teen parent is that you have no social life. As evident from Julie's example, teenage girls love hanging around with each other and going to the mall to shop or going to the movies. However, if you have to take care of a baby, you will not have any time to do any activities with your friends. Therefore, your relationship with your friends and the free time you had before the baby, have disappeared. Another disadvantage of being a teen parent is that your relationships fall apart. Because you have a baby, stress and arguments will erupt between not only your spouses, but with your own family as well. Therefore, relationships will fall apart and will be left alone with nobody to care for you. Almost fifty to sixty percent of teen pregnancies result in the departure of one of the parents. Therefore, many single mothers and single fathers have a tough time raising their child all alone. Thirdly, teen parents cannot concentrate on school work, if they decide to go back to school. Obviously, teen parents have to put their baby as their main

priority. However, how can they concentrate on their school work if you have a baby that is under the care of a babysitter? My mother said that when she left me at daycare for the first time, she could not even concentrate on her work; her mind was totally on how I was doing. It is the same exact situation with a teen parent. A teen parent cannot take an Algebra test when his or her child is under the care of another person. That is why according to National Teen Prevention Campaign that “Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school (only one-third receive a high school diploma) and only 1.5% have a college degree by age 30. Teen mothers are more likely to end up on welfare (nearly 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers end up on welfare)”. The fourth disadvantage of being a teen parent is one of the most damaging of them all. Your future is altered. Many teen parents probably had high ambitions to go to a good college, marry, and get a good job. However, a baby changes all that. One teen parent, who wanted to remain anonymous, said that, “I could’ve been a cheerleader. I could’ve been in pageants and homecoming queen. But I lost all of that.” When high school is already so stressful, a baby to take care of is like the equivalent of having doubled the load of homework each night. Going back to my previous point, if a teen parent cannot concentrate on his or her work, then how can his or her have a bright future? The most damaging drawback of being a teen parent is a guilty conscience. God created in all of us a conscience, where we know naturally what is right and wrong. Logically, God says that sex before marriage is wrong. In 2 Timothy 2:22, it says, “Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” Therefore, as a teenager, we must flee from the “desires of youth” and pursue with a “pure heart”. If we become a teen parent, the guilty conscience of having this baby and disobeying God’s law, will stay with you

for the rest of your life. It is like a rain cloud over you heard that never goes away. Therefore, I encourage many teen parents to consider these vast disadvantages before thinking of having sex.

Many people obviously think it is always the teenagers' fault for getting themselves in the debacle of taking care of a child. However, many people forget that most of the time it is because of the parents that many teens are now teen parents. I believe that parents play a huge role in a child's life, especially during the child's teenage years. Many children react to how their parents act. If their parents constantly shout at them or beat them, then teenagers will feel the need to take drastic measures. Unfortunately in most cases that is teen sex. Sometimes, parents are too busy to get involved in their children's lives. There are some parents that are so involved in work, that children can do whatever they want to do at anytime. One teen parent said that, "My parents never talked to me, that's why I am now a dad." There are some children though who need their parents to get involved in their lives. They will feel depressed and have low self-esteem if their parents are not there for them. That is another reason why teens might have sex. So the question arises then of, "How should good parents act?" Well, I believe that good parents are loving parents who care about their children. Parents should talk to get involved in their children's lives so they can understand how they are doing in school and what they are going through emotionally currently, whether it is stress or even sadness because he or she did not make the basketball team. If parents do these things, already, they will have an impact on their children's lives. The chances of the child having sex will obviously diminish. The last step for a parent will obviously be to talk to your children about sex. I know many parents hate talking to their children about sex, but it is necessary if you want to protect your children from teen pregnancy. Parents should talk in depth about the consequences of sex, sexually transmitted diseases, and about protection. If parents do all these things for their

children, it is the child's decision from their whether or not to have sex. It is like a relay race. Once the adults have passed the baton of "responsibility and trust", it is up to the child whether or not to drop it. My message to parents out there is simple, "Get involved in your children's lives, you will never regret it if you do."

Obviously, if a teen becomes pregnant, she will have to consider some legal options, regarding the future of her baby. I believe that there are three legal options for a parenting teen: adoption, abortion, and single parenting. According to the national statistics, though, single parenting is the most desired option, with approximately one-third of the pregnant girls nationwide carry their pregnancies to term and keep their babies. The second option is abortion with one-third of the nation carrying out abortions. Adoption comes in last with only about five percent of pregnant girls nationwide putting their babies up for adoption. I can understand the disparity among pregnant mothers because different people value different things. If I am a single parent though, I will elect to become a single parent. Single parenting has a couple disadvantages and advantages. The disadvantages of single parenting are similar to the ones stated earlier such as the drastic change in future, and unable to concentrate on school work. The advantages though are rewarding in a certain viewpoint. First of all, unlike abortion and adoption, you become a person involved in that child's life. A child, obviously, needs to be exposed to the original, biological parents; otherwise, that child will be confused and troubled for the rest of his or her life. Secondly, unlike abortion, you are saving a human being's life. By becoming a single parent, you will not have to stick with the fact that you killed a young child for the rest of your life, for in the Ten Commandments God states that, "Thou shall not murder." Adoption has some disadvantages and advantages as well. If you decide to put your child for adoption, a downside will be that you have no influence in that child's life whatsoever. A good

parent will be involved in his or her child's life as evident of how a parent affects the chances of a teen having sex. Adoption will also make you feel guilty that the boy or girl will grow up thinking questions like, "Why do my parents look different from me?" That child will feel missing piece in his life that he can possibly never recover. An advantage to adoption will be that you will seemingly get a load off your back. You are able to go to school without caring for the baby. In addition, you can almost become a regular teen again; unfortunately, from time to time, you will be thinking about that child somewhere out there in a caring home, who might not know that his or her real parents are not living in the same house as him or her. Finally, let us consider abortion. Now, abortion is a growing practice in the U.S., which is evident since it ties in the national surveys of parenting teens with the legal option of single parenting. Many teen mothers think that abortion is the "easy way out." Nevertheless it is not. Abortion will get rid of your troubles as a baby. Abortion does eliminate the thought of worrying about a child. However, abortion does not erase the guilt of murdering a living being. Republicans and Democrats constantly debate this widely controversial topic. Some view abortion as murder, others view it as a women's free right to choose. However, as a Christian, I believe that abortion is wrong. Abortion is the equivalent of murder, which obviously is wrong in almost any civilized place in this world. Therefore, I am surprised that abortion is not contended more in Congress as a crime because murder is by definition, killing any human being. However, I hope that teens across America will be guided in the right direction to make the appropriate decision for their child.

Teen sex is a controversial topic in this country. Some teens view it as an action that shows their individual freedom, others think it is just plain wrong. Obviously, I totally disapprove of teen sex. Teen sex I believe is a strong abomination to the Lord, for He created us

to glorify his name and keep our bodies like a “holy temple” until it is the right time to start a family. God does not at all disapprove of sex. He actually commands, “To be fruitful and multiply.” However, what he does not like is when sex is done for the wrong purpose and at the wrong time. I agree with that totally. Even if teens are not Christians, they should realize what they are doing and the consequences of those actions; otherwise, their life will be changed for ever.

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