

Teen Pregnancy

I am 16 and found out that I am pregnant. I know I shouldn't have had sex, but my boyfriend and I really loved each other. Well, at least I thought we did. When I told him, he broke up with me. Now I don't even know if I want to have the baby or if I should just give it up for adoption. That would just seem so hard. I don't know what to do.

I remember when a friend of our family, a young woman in her early twenties, gave birth to her first child. It was a beautiful, seven-pound, adorable little girl. The joy of new life filled the hospital room when we visited her. The mother asked us to pray for the child because, you see, she was saying 'goodbye' to her daughter. She had made a decision with a lot of thought, prayer, dilemma, struggle, and love, unlike the decision that brought about the pregnancy. Tears of love and pain flowed from her eyes at the reality of what she was choosing...to give her own child away.

You don't need me to tell you that having sex outside of marriage is a wrong choice. You already know that. You have and will continue to struggle through the regret of your actions, and now the consequences. The hurt and rejection from your boyfriend is only adding to your struggle right now. But please know that there is hope and forgiveness. You can make another choice to save yourself for your future husband. Really search your soul to find your worth and value in who you were created to be and not in who you're romantically involved with. Please read some of our articles on www.lifepromotions.com to help you make better choices in your relationships with boys in the future and to deal with the hurt of your broken relationship. For now, we need to deal with the new life you are carrying inside you.

First of all, I will be honest with you and let you know that the road ahead of you will not be an easy one. A sixteen-year-old girl I met in Ohio had a child out of wedlock and gave him up for adoption. Her own father would not talk to her because of it. On her first day back at school, a so-called friend asked her, "How could you do it?" with a sneer of disgust on her face. She went on to say, "You don't deserve to be called a human being much less a mother." I don't share this to discourage you. Despite the hardship, it is still worth the struggle.

You see, all too often, that same person who sneered would have supported her through an abortion or stood up in her wedding to a guy she doesn't love but married because she 'had to get married', ignoring the facts about the divorce rate of marriages that start that way. Oh, how I wish that person would consider the love I saw that day in the hospital. It proved to me once again that love is not a tickling good feeling, but a choice – an act of your will to do what is best for another. The sacrifice many times is costly and painful. I sat holding the baby as I read a letter the mother had written to her baby to read when she was older. She said I could share it with others.

My Precious Child,

Every day I wonder if I am making the right decision about your future. My hands long to dry your tears when you fall or get hurt by someone's words. My arms long to hold you when you are sick or need some love. My eyes long to watch you grow, and my heart longs to love you each and every day. But what is loving you more? Would it be to hold you selfishly or let you have a stable life I can't give you? This is the hardest decision I have ever made. But my sweet innocent baby, I love you with all of my heart and the most loving thing I can do is give you a home that can provide everything you deserve. I ache to be able to give you that myself, but it seems impossible at this time in my life, so God is allowing me to bless your mom and dad with you! I just know, my love, that the Lord will protect you and bless you. Please always stay close to Him for He loves you so much! Please know I could have never placed you if I didn't love you with all of my heart! I am going to trust God that you will be well taken care of all the days of your life. Although you were not planned by me, you were surely planned by our loving Savior, and He is with you always! Love Always, MOM

Consider the love it took for this girl! I hope you will also make the loving choice. Beautiful things can happen, even in the most unexpected ways. I hope you will demonstrate true love by allowing your child to enter the world and be a blessing to someone who can't have children. If you're not sure where to start, please visit your local pregnancy resource center. These are organizations around the nation that are committed to helping unwed pregnant mothers. To find the one closest to you, go to www.optionline.org. Click on "find a center." They will help you make the loving choice.

Articles are written by Bob Lenz, Tiffany Thompson and other national youth communicators with Life Promotions Inc., a non-profit youth organization committed to instilling hope, worth and value in youth.