



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

This week's Topic: Is Abortion a Cause for Subsequent Child Abuse?



Education: Is abortion a cause for subsequent child abuse?

While a woman may at first feel relief after her problem pregnancy is over, and may appear to function normally for years. But as time passes, it becomes more and more likely that she will come to suffer life-changing affects from her decision. Abortion is linked with increased depression, violent behavior, alcohol and drug abuse, replacement pregnancies, and reduced maternal bonding with children born subsequently. These factors are closely associated with child abuse and would appear to confirm individual clinical assessments linking post-abortion trauma with subsequent child abuse.* A wealth of information on post-abortion trauma can be

found at www.afterabortion.org.

Abortion itself is of course a deadly form of child abuse, but the lasting effects of abortion can not only have a devastating effect on the mother, but also put future children at risk for abuse.

*Ref: Benedict, et.al., "Maternal Perinatal Risk Factors and Child Abuse," *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 9:217-224 (1985); P.G. Ney, "Relationship between Abortion and Child Abuse," *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 24:610-620, 1979; Reardon, *Aborted Women - Silent No More* (Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1987), 129-130, describes a case of a woman who beat her three year old son to death shortly after an abortion which triggered a "psychotic episode" of grief, guilt, and misplaced anger.



Prayer: Dear Jesus, Please wrap your loving arms around women who have been wounded by abortion. Give them healing and peace as they face the difficult truth and mourn for their child. Help them to find the healing ministries that will allow them to process their grief, and find the acceptance and understanding that they need. Protect the whole family from the hurtful effects of abortion, and draw them instead closer to you as they come to know your mercy and love. Help all of us to have compassion and mercy on post-abortive women and leave judgment to you.



Action: If you have a friend who is struggling with sadness and emotional turmoil, and you suspect a past abortion may be the cause, there is a way to help. At the right time, mention to her something like: "I saw an interesting website (such as those listed below) that really gave me a new outlook on abortion. I never realized the awful pressures women face when making that decision and how much they can suffer afterward from grief and feeling alone and feeling condemned by others. And how

hard it is for them to find healing. But I learned that there are programs that help women struggling with emotional problems after abortion." Have information on healing programs if she asks for it, or you might even be able to leave it where she can find it. Information about healing ministries can be found at www.abortionrecovery.org (the Abortion Recovery Care Directory) and at www.hopeafterabortion.com (Rachel Project website, the Catholic program).

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