



Christian Voices for Life

*Wednesday Word*

Education

Prayer

Action

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## Why Does Abortion Contribute to Poverty?

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**Education:** When abortion restrictions are enacted, many abortion defenders claim that access to abortion must not be limited, as if abortion fills a real need, especially for poor women. Abortion is supposed to empower women to pursue education and careers. It is true that on the order of 30% of abortions are chosen for economic reasons.(1) Whether it is a married couple or a single mother already struggling to provide for children already born, adding the burden of medical bills, long term responsibility for another child, and perhaps loss of income, may seem to

be too much to bear. “Preventing” the arrival of another child by means of abortion may seem to be the only reasonable and even responsible choice. But most parents would never consider eliminating their born children when times are tough – they simply do the best they can for the family and work for a better future. A child within the womb is already alive and a part of the family as well. If the situation was extremely serious, adoption would allow the child to be provided for rather than destroyed. **Surely our communities can offer better help to handle economic worries than giving parents permission to kill their unborn children.**

**In fact, rather than helping women to escape or avoid poverty, abortion can actually contribute to it.** A vicious cycle of abortion and poverty can develop. Studies have shown that detrimental psychological effects of abortion on women can make them less able to be successful in their school or career, less able to maintain a permanent relationship, more likely to have problems with drugs or alcohol, and likely to eventually become a single mother after repeat abortions.(2) All these effects contribute to long term poverty. In fact, women who have had abortions are more likely to require welfare assistance, and the odds of requiring assistance goes up with each subsequent abortion.(2)

1. Johnston, Wm. Robert, “Reasons Given for Having Abortions in the United States”, retrieved from <http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/abreasons.html#9> on 1/20/26.
2. Reardon, David C. "Abortion and the Feminization of Poverty", retrieved from <https://afterabortion.org/abortion-and-the-feminization-of-poverty-2/> on 1/20/26, originally published in *The Post-Abortion Review* 1(3), Fall 1993.



**Prayer:** Dear Father God, please have mercy on families who are burdened with economic difficulties. Help them to have faith and hope in You, that You will provide for their needs. Help them to always see a child as a gift and a blessing for their family, real and alive from the moment of conception within the womb. Help them to overcome any pride that comes in the way of finding and accepting the help they need to care for their family. Help all of us to be generous in sharing our resources with those in need, so that all your children can be provided for.



**Action:** Families who are tempted by abortion because of poverty can be helped in many ways by pregnancy centers. Ultrasound can show them the humanity of their child within the womb. Referrals can be made to help the family find the help they need with medical care, food, and other items. The pregnancy center itself can also provide baby clothes, diapers and other needed items. Please consider supporting your

local pregnancy center – their information can be found at <https://optionline.org/>.