

## Abortion

### Pros

It's done with  
No commitments to anyone but yourself  
Less financial impact  
Your life continues as before

### Cons

Spiritual matters  
Psychological matters  
Regret  
Physical issues  
Deprive another family of a wanted child  
A child is dead  
Depression  
Guilt

**Big Questions:** *Can you live with this? What will you tell your future children? How will it affect your relationship with God?*

## Adoption

### Pros

Child has “new” life  
You can continue your life  
Another family is blessed  
Finances not an issue  
Child does not suffer

### Cons

You may wonder about the child  
Fear that “someone” might find out  
Child may seek biological parent(s) –a “low chance”

**Big Questions:** *Can you get the other birth parent to surrender rights? Will you seek private or institutional adoption? What “communication” do you want to maintain? How will you select an adoption agency and/or attorney? Thought: You may not want this baby right now, but know that this baby is wanted—right now!*

## Parenting-Single

### Pros

Keep the child  
Raise the child your way  
You always have God  
Child has biological parental love

### Cons

Single parenting is tough  
Work  
Childcare  
Stigma of being a single parent  
You are alone, the only adult  
Money

### Parenting with your Parents

#### Pros

Housing provided  
Childcare provided  
Food provided  
Emotion support

#### Cons

Not independent  
Blurred lines of parental roles  
“Who’s the parent?”  
Future separation issues

## Parenting-Married (or living together)

### Pros

Keep the child  
Two parent family  
Stability  
Teach your child what a family looks like

### Cons

Stability  
Marriage problems  
Tough way to start a marriage  
Lack of “honeymoon”  
Two big jobs (mate/kid)

**Big Questions:** *“Two wrongs don’t make a right”, is this person really right? Will you be willing to seek premarital counseling? When do you tell the child? When will you marry?*



☛ **Big Questions for “Parenting-Single or with Parents”:** *How will you pay the bills? Who will raise the child (i.e., childcare?) How willing and available is your “support network” really? Do you have a Plan B? Can you clarify the boundaries?*



Decisions associated with an

# Unplanned Pregnancy

This "PASTOR'S GUIDE SHEET" was developed by Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, NV • jtaylor@southreno.com  
Scriptures are printed verbatim with references noted but highlights and underlines are added. Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted.

## I. Before we start, I want you to know some very important things: (i.e., defining the relationship)

- Thank you for coming. I know this is hard and I am honored to help. The Bible says that *"there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors."* Know that I take seriously my role as God's ambassador and as a friend to you.
- I will not and cannot make any decisions for you. You have big decisions to make and I honor the fact that these are your decisions. Please help me understand exactly how I can help you.
- In this whole process, **strict confidentiality** will be maintained—period!
- I want you to know that I will be praying for you—everyday!



1. The first thing I will say to you is this: ***Life is always a good thing!*** If you choose to keep this life—celebrate the life! If you choose to let somebody else keep this life—celebrate it. Life is always a good thing and the Bible is clear that God is the giver of life. How this life came about may not be good but the life itself is very good. God brings "good out of bad."
2. God's forgiveness is totally available to you. Today (or sometime), we need to deal with a biblical understanding of forgiveness. God will forgive you and you need to forgive yourself. The Bible says in **1 John 1:9, The Living Bible** - <sup>9</sup>*But if we confess our sins to him, he can be depended on to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. And it is perfectly proper for God to do this for us because Christ died to wash away our sins.*
3. An important thing to realize is that a lot of people who love you will say a lot of things to you. They may be mean-willed but they are not in your shoes. Please decide carefully how you will make decisions (e.g., Who will you listen to? Will God and/or the Bible be important in the decision making process? Will your age be a factor [legally]? Are your friends [who may not last past High School] playing an important role in this decision? Will you use your "head" or your "heart"? Etc.)
4. You really have only five options. There is also a sixth one but that is out of your hands. Those options are as follows (and I will be frank):
  - A. Abortion
  - B. Adoption
  - C. Parenting while staying single
  - D. Parenting while staying single and letting your parents help raise the child
  - E. Parenting with the other parent of your baby (married or not)

*One in four pregnancies terminates naturally (via miscarriage). God may "make this decision for you."*
5. You need to consider long and hard and the pros and cons of each decision. You can see the Attachment for a summary of the pros and cons of each option. We can discuss this together, if you want.
6. I have one story for you that is better "told" than written out on a sheet of paper. It is the story of Samuel Joe Taylor.

## II. Developing a 'Plan of attack':

### **There are four major 'phases' needed in this process**

#### **1. Medical—the health of the mom and baby are of first importance.**

- A mother's medical examination should happen soon after the first skipped period.
- The health of the baby should be focused on as soon as pregnancy is verified.
- Prenatal vitamins, healthy eating, appropriate exercise, sleep management, etc. are vital.

#### **2. Legally—as with most aspects of life, there is a legal component.**

- In heated/complex relationships, an attorney should be consulted.
- Questions before you are primarily related to financial support (medical/on-going support) and guardianship.
- The birth-mother, birth-father, grandparents, and hospitals have some legal rights in our state.

#### **3. Spiritually/Emotionally—you will need a healthy support team.**

- The most critical mistake you will make will be to isolate yourself—don't!
- Develop a good, healthy support team for prayer, encouragement, transportation, child care, etc.
- Consider cutting back on activities and focusing on the your physical and emotional health.
- If a marriage takes place, marriage counseling is a must. Individual counseling should be seriously considered.
- Consider interviewing someone who has already been “down this road.”

#### **4. Decisions—you have some major decisions in front of you individually and/or as a family.**

- Again, you have five major options (see page one, number four & the chart on the next page).
- Plan a personal retreat (a day in the park, a short trip, a weekend) to consider each option.
- These decisions need a “drop-dead-date” and are made first individually—then with others.

#### ***Other questions before you...***

*What you will get married? Will the birth-father be involved with the delivery/medical visits?*

*What legal factors are we overlooking? Will we live in the same town? Who will pay for the medical bills?*

*What will the child support payments be? Who will name the baby? What will the visitation schedules be?*

*Who will do the baby shower? How much does a birth cost? Are there any risk factors medically?*

*Will there be any legal contests? How will the child be raised? (Religion, discipline styles, schooling, etc.)*

*What survival skills do we need? Will the mother work during pregnancy? What about vacations, visitations, and holidays?*

*Who needs to know what/when? What about in-laws? What questions are “we” not asking that we should be asking?*