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The Pain of Abortion Lingers for Years Without God's Mercy

Another View
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I have done extensive work for the pro-life movement, researching and interviewing people in many different states, trying to better understand why women have abortions, but more importantly, what happens after the abortion.

In my travels covering 20 states, I have listened to many different women, and some men, who have told me their post-abortion nightmares, but one story stands out from the rest. This is a story about a woman seen through her brother's eyes:

"In the summer of 1986, my sister was engaged to marry. My parents were apprehensive about her marrying this man because they noticed certain character traits in him that would negatively impact their marriage."

"Against their better judgment, they allowed the wedding to go on without voicing their concerns. They soon regretted their silence. It became clear to my parents and me soon after the wedding that our new member of the family had an alcohol and drug problem. Their marriage lasted only two years, and ended in a bitter divorce."

"I went to visit my sister to support her during this difficult time in her life. However, I wasn't prepared for what I was about to learn."

"The day I arrived, she took me to a restaurant overlooking a lake. We sat outside on the deck where we could talk privately. A few minutes into our conversation, she hit me with a piece of news that I thought would never happen within my family. Three months after the wedding, she learned she was pregnant. Eight weeks later, she went to an abortion clinic and terminated the pregnancy."

"Upon hearing this news, I was speechless. She saw the shock on my face and immediately delved into an explanation. She said things got bad after the honeymoon. He was constantly drunk, and sometimes also high. She said there was no way she was bringing a child into the world that he helped create. She made an appointment with a local abortion clinic, and terminated her pregnancy. Afterwards, she said, she didn't feel relieved, just empty."

"A few days later, I went home, still in shock, knowing I had a niece or nephew that I would never get to hold and watch grow up."



"Over the past 19 years, a series of events occurred that led me to pray even harder for my sister. She had no idea her hell was just beginning. Soon after her divorce, she married a man whose marriage she helped break up. She gained two children from his divorce, who are still receiving counseling due to the breakup. With her new husband, their first pregnancy was lost to miscarriage. She became pregnant soon afterward, only to lose him in her womb in the seventh month of pregnancy. She delivered my nephew stillborn. Afterward, she battled bulimia for about two years."

"She was about to carry their third child, my niece, to term, and deliver her safely. However, to this day, she won't discipline her daughter when she misbehaves. She lets her do anything she wants, and my niece has become a brat."

"My sister lives a life of total chaos, switching jobs every year, complaining that she hates her boss. Recently, she has been working to save her troubled second marriage, and has been drinking heavily, adding 40 pounds to her body in the past eight months."

" Sometimes I imagine what those three children would have looked like, and what they would be like. I know she is hurting and I find myself crying a lot more than I ever did before. I like to believe that some of my tears fall because she won't let hers fall."

"She used to be the one who remembered all our birthdays, anniversaries, and planned the family parties, but now she lives in her own world, apart from those who care for her, and miss her. When I call, she won't answer the phone, and she hardly ever returns my phone calls when I leave messages I want to see her smile the way she used to smile, a real smile. Now, when I see her over the

holidays, I see a smile on her face but hurt in her eyes. I want my sister back, but I can't bring her home; only God can."

Ninety-eight percent of all relationships and marriages involving an abortion end in breakup or divorce. Miscarriages and hemorrhaging are common after abortions. Sexual promiscuity, severe depression (even suicide), the need for an atonement child, prostitution, eating disorders, drug addiction, and alcoholism are all common symptoms of post-abortion syndrome.

Why? Many men and women hate themselves and believe they are not worthy of receiving God's love, mercy, and forgiveness. Hence, they begin a vicious cycle of self-destruction (consciously and unconsciously – discovered through healing therapy), as punishment for ending the life of their child.

Many who have realized that God's love for them is real said that they were pro-choice and explained that they used the pro-choice 'shield' to protect themselves from the reality of what they chose to do.

Appeasement is a comforting 'friend' sometimes, but only allows this vicious cycle of self-destruction to continue. Many shy away from church, or if they do attend a church, they stay away from pro-life ministries. These men and women need to know there is a safe place for them to come for forgiveness when they are ready, so the healing process can begin.

Our priests are the safest haven for people who are suffering from the effects of abortion. However, many priests are afraid to openly discuss abortion for fear that they will hurt and/or alienate people who have had abortions. It is my hope that every priest will commit to going on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat so they can see the real pain that comes from abortion. In some dioceses, it is required by the bishop.

Our priests are so badly needed in this cause. In Nashville, the Hope Clinic for Women has counseling available for those suffering from post-abortion syndrome, and the priests can play a key role in this process.

To all who are post-abortive and have yet to realize God's infinite love and mercy, when will you put down that heavy stone that you have been casting at yourself for the past five, ten, twenty, thirty, even forty years, and come home? When?

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