

“You created my inmost being.” Psalm 139:13a



*“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”
Psalm 139:14a*

“You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13b

You became uniquely you at conception!

18 days • Eyes developing
24 days • Heart beating
30 days • Blood flowing
43 days • Brain waves present

Seven to Eight Weeks from conception:

Your lips were sensitive to touch and your ears may resemble family pattern.
You were sitting up and one gram (1/30 oz.) in weight. Every organ was present and functioning: heart, stomach, liver, kidneys, and even taste buds!

Eleven to twelve weeks from conception:

You were able to bend your fingers, suck your thumb, squint, swallow, frown, and even smile! Your fingernails were forming too!

You were actively starting to show your individuality!

You could kick, turn your feet, curl and fan your toes, make a fist, move thumbs, bend wrists, turn your head, open your

mouth, and press your lips tightly together.
You had also started to practice your breathing!

Fourteen to sixteen weeks from conception:

By now, very fine hair had begun to grow on your head.

Sexual differences had become apparent.
You were eight to ten inches in length and weighed a half pound or more.

Sixteen weeks from conception:

Your ears were functioning – you could hear your mother’s voice and heartbeat.
You were also grasping with your hands, swimming, and turning somersaults!

You were uniquely “you” right from conception! Nothing more was added! You have just kept growing and maturing.



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*Here
is
a
baby
in
the
womb
at
sixteen
weeks.*



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Abortion Facts

How many?

Total number of abortions in the U.S. from 1973-2002 estimated at 44,010,378.
(based on Alan Guttmacher Institute and Centers for Disease Control statistics of 1.33 million, projected for 2002)

How often?

There were over 3,600 abortions per day in 2000, 151 per hour, *one every 24 seconds*.
In that same year, there were 306 abortions for every 1000 live births.

In 2000, more children died from abortion than Americans died in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf Wars combined.

(National Right to Life Committee)

Why?

Women have cited “social reasons,” *not mother’s health or rape/incest*, as their motivation in approximately **93%** of all abortions.

(National Right to Life Committee)

“Your works are wonderful.” Psalm 139:14b



*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart.” Jeremiah 1:5*

**REAL LOVE
REAL LIFE**



Real Love

Real love is NOT “soap opera love” – passionate and intense but selfish and temporary. It is NOT an “until somebody ‘better’ comes along” kind of “love.”

Real love is **God’s kind of love** – “Agape” love. The kind of love that is a forever love – protecting, trusting, and hopeful. It remains forever, even when life is difficult.

Real love . . .

. . . is patient and kind
. . . is not envious or boastful
. . . is not rude or selfish
. . . does not easily become angry
. . . does not hold a grudge
. . . seeks the truth and is loyal no matter what.

Real love starts with a friendship.

If a man and a woman have nothing in common but a sexual desire, what will be left of the relationship when the desire is gone?

Read 1 Corinthians 13.

The Facts: Teen Pregnancy / STDs

Numbers:

About 840,000 teens become pregnant each year. One-third of these pregnancies end in abortion. Over three out of four teen births are out-of-wedlock. The good news is that the numbers have been decreasing.

Impact:

- Seven out of 10 adolescent mothers drop out of high school.
- The long-term wage earning power of adolescent fathers is greatly reduced.
- The teenage sons of adolescent mothers are 2.7 times more likely to spend time in prison than the sons of mothers who delay childbearing until their early 20s.
- The teenage daughters of adolescent mothers are 50 percent more likely to bear children out of wedlock.
- More than 80 percent of single mothers under 18 years of age end up in poverty and reliant on welfare assistance.

Infection stats:

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) accounted for 87 percent of all cases among the top ten most frequently reported infections in the U.S. during 1997. Five of the top 10 reportable infectious diseases in 1997 were either exclusively or largely transmitted during sex, including the top four (chlamydia, gonorrhea, AIDS, and syphilis).

It is estimated that there are more than 68 million current STD infections among Americans. Each year, 15.3 million new STD infections occur, including over 3 million infections in teens. The two most common STDs, herpes and human papilloma virus (HPV), account for 65 of the 68 million current infections.

Purity/Chastity and Sexuality

Contrary to the world’s perspective, men and women (of any age) are not called to “sexual” living, but holy living. We were created in God’s image, not that of animals, and although the perfect image is flawed by sin, we are not held captive by sexual thoughts and desires. We are not destined to meet animalistic needs.

Purity/chastity focuses on our identity as redeemed sons and daughters of God. Purity/chastity is the best way to: avoid sexually transmitted diseases • prevent pregnancy • maintain moral values • build self-esteem.

People of all ages need to be touched, but **sexual touching is reserved by God for the commitment of marriage**. God helps men and women keep their desires under control by reminding them that their bodies are “temples of the Holy Spirit who lives within you” (1 Corinthians 6:19). What we do with our bodies should bring glory, not to self, but to God!

Remember who you are.

Read Romans 12:1-2; John 15:14-16; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.



Disease stats:

In the 60s only syphilis and gonorrhea were common. Today there are at least 25 STDs, and at least eight new pathogens have been identified since 1980, including HIV.

The costs of STDs:

Every year about \$17 million is spent on the treatment of major STDs and their preventable complications.

Risk Factor:

Adolescents and young adults (15-24) are the age groups at the greatest risk for acquiring an STD. Approximately two-thirds of all people who acquire STDs are under 25.

Possible results from STDs:

Infertility • Sterility • Scars • Cervical cancer • Genetial warts

The Solution:

Postponing sexual activity until marriage with an uninfected mate is the only way for teens and single adults to be 100 percent confident of avoiding STD infection and nonmarital pregnancy.

(Source: The Medical Institute for Sexual Health, PO Box 162306, Austin, TX 78716-2306; 512-328-6268; <http://www.medinstitute.org>)

If you are already involved sexually . . .

You can begin today to say “no.” God promises to forgive your past and give you sufficient strength today and tomorrow to avoid sin. Continue in prayer, Christian fellowship, communion, worship, and Bible study, and God will give you strength and peace.

Read Matthew 26:69-75; John 21:15-17; Galatians 1:11-13, 22-24; John 8:3-11. Luke 15:11-24; 1 John 1:8-9; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Philippians 4:8.

Safe Choices

Practice *not yet sex* or *saved sex*, not “safe sex.”

Know what YOU won’t let yourself do before you leave home on a date.

Know the difference between lust and love.

Don’t be pressured into doing something you know is wrong.

Give your hormones a break – don’t be alone with your girl or guy night after night after night.

When your conscience warns you, stop before you go too far!

Respect your date as you want your future wife or husband to be respected.

Be accountable to:
God – your parents – yourself – your someday wife or husband.

Be cool without drugs or alcohol.

Choose friends who respect your hopes and dreams.

Even if you said ‘yes,’ when you should have said “no,” don’t consider marriage if there is no love, no trust, no shared faith.

