

What Is Your Biggest Fear?

When you think about all of the things that can happen to you when having sex outside of a monogamous, exclusive relationship like marriage, what is your greatest fear? Most would say, an unintended pregnancy! But you have a ten times greater risk of contracting a sexually transmitted infection than you ever have of being pregnant.

“I’ve got a news flash for you: Pregnancy’s not a disease!”

It’s survivable, but it can be a huge crisis when it’s unintended. Because then, all of the choices in front of you are going to carry consequences. *But what’s most important is that we slow down and think about the options that we have in front of us.* Let’s look at them.

1. **Abortion** is painful. It is not the easy fix that many would like you to think it is. It is not like going to the dentist and getting your tooth pulled; there are consequences to that choice that last forever.
2. **Parenting** is not an easy choice. No matter where you are in your relationship, whether you’re a teenager or a college student, parenting is a difficult choice, *especially if you’re going to have to do that alone.*

The Success Sequence

Research has been done about poverty, its causes, and how to get people out of it. One study in particular, called *The Millennial Success Sequence*,¹ found that people who graduated from high school, got a job, and then got married before they had children had a much higher chance of not living in poverty as an adult. They found that 97 percent of Millennials who follow the “success sequence,” are not poor by the time they reach their prime young adult years of age 28–34, *even if they grew up in poverty.*¹ *Graduate from high school, get a job, and then get married before you have children—that is the success sequence.*

But if you do find yourself in an unintended pregnancy, talk to the people in your life. *Find out where your support is.* You can parent and beat these odds, but it’s going to take some time, effort, and a good plan.

3. *The third option a young girl has if she finds herself pregnant and didn’t intend to be, is not without pain—it’s **adoption**.* It is the ability of a young girl to take the child whom she’s carried for nine months and loves it with everything she is and says, *“I want what’s best for my child, and I’m not it. I’m willing to go through all of this pain in order to give my child a family.”* That takes a lot of courage, a lot of maturity, and a lot of love. It is not easy.

It takes a lot of love for a young woman to decide to place her child with a family and to give that couple the privilege of being her child’s parents.

Ultimately, the most important thing you can do, if you’re in an unintended pregnancy, is to get the help and support you need. When you do, you can come out of it on the other end, whatever decision you make, better, stronger, and with more character than you had before.

Sources:

1. *The Millennial Success Sequence, Marriage, Kids, and the “Success Sequence” among Young Adults* by Wendy Wang and W. Bradford Wilcox, by the American Enterprise InSTD/STI/STIute and the InSTD/STI/STIute for Family Studies, 2017.
2. *How Many Couples are Waiting to Adopt?* https://www.americanadoptions.com/pregnant/waiting_adoptive_families