

The LOVE Approach™

Heartbeat International

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Biblical Basis: St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8

¹If I speak in the tongue of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

L Listen and Learn

Explore the pregnancy issue and the details of her story through listening and learning.

Ask about:

- ♥ Her Needs.
- ♥ Her Strengths.
- ♥ Her Areas of Awareness (Feelings, Thoughts, Wants, Values and Beliefs).
- ♥ The attitudes, feelings and responses of the child's father and/or her parents since they are key to her feelings and fears.

How to explore and listen:

- ♥ Pay close attention to her every word and body language.
- ♥ Ask open-ended questions and use statements like "Tell me more about..."
- ♥ Interpret and "check out" what you think you are hearing ("Did I hear you say...?").
- ♥ Observe and listen for contradictions and ambivalence to understand more deeply (she is probably not totally "at ease" about her actions, thoughts, or the feelings she is experiencing).

O Open Options

Share information about options she needs to consider to make a life-giving decision. Use what you have learned in the L step about her story. Share in a factual but loving and caring way what you know about abortion, having a baby, adoption, marriage, and how they might apply in her situation. Focus on her first, not her baby.

V Vision and Value

Awaken a vision in her for a healthier life (a vision that she may never have had, or that has become dimmed). Help her Value herself differently. She is a special creation, worthy of love. She is made in the image of God; He loves her and even died for her. There is always hope. She can make positive choices for herself and her baby.

E Extend and Empower

- ♥ Give Referrals for help she needs, especially 1-800-395-HELP or OptionLine.org for the nearest pregnancy help center.
- ♥ Help her plan her next steps.
- ♥ A call from you? How can you contact her?
- ♥ Pray for her and her baby.