



# Pastoral Care in Pregnancy Loss: A Ministry Long Needed

*Thomas Moe*

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Until now, the church has been unaware of the need for ministry to those suffering from pregnancy loss. At a time when approximately one in four pregnancies ends in loss, the need to understand and provide caring ministry is painfully obvious. *Pastoral Care in Pregnancy Loss* introduces the religious community to the issue of pregnancy loss and describes the ministries that can be helpful to those who experience these tragedies. Effective ministry in pregnancy loss requires that one develop basic life theories in order to prepare for such in-depth care. Thus, the book is more than a “how to” as it explores why there is suffering and why some suffer more than others, how to find grace when God seems far away, how to minister when we don’t have answers, and how religious ministry can consistently work with other helping professionals in support of the individual. With the foundation of ministry theory provided by *Pastoral Care in Pregnancy Loss*, you can help your faith community develop strategies for ministry to those suffering from pregnancy loss. Numerous case studies illustrate what is usually done wrong in providing pastoral care in these difficult and delicate situations and explain why those who experience loss may blame themselves, why they may blame God, and why they may not feel able to return to church. Providing helpful insight to hospital pastoral care departments, church libraries, funeral directors, counselors and psychologists, nursing and obstetrics professionals, and seminaries with a marriage and family ministry specialty, this book provides readers with information about:

- three types of pregnancy loss--miscarriage, still birth, and neonatal loss
- church outreach
- the grieving process
- victims as “consenters” or “experiencers”
- the spiritual needs of those suffering loss
- practical ministries
- crisis support and long-term support. *Pastoral Care in Pregnancy Loss* furthers your understanding of pregnancy loss by enumerating theories on how suffering and loss are viewed by those suffering--either as a time of testing, a time of training, a mystery of God, a sign of punishment and warning, or as having no meaning. The book also shows how pregnancy loss affects five different types of personal relationships and discusses both immediate and long-term concerns of providing pastoral care. From helping the victim find meaning or reason for the loss to providing support in preparing for future pregnancies, this book provides much-needed guidance to an often-neglected ministry.

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