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Religion Often Shapes Someone's View of Abortion – But What About a Woman's Actual Decision?

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Many factors can shape how someone views abortion – gender, age and education, to name a few. Around the world, however, religious belief is the most powerful predictor that someone will disapprove, as I document in my 2025 book, “*Fetal Positions*.” Faith traditions’ **teachings about abortion vary** – and there is diversity of opinions within faiths, too. On average, though, people who say that religion is important in their lives are far more likely to think abortion is morally wrong.

But here's the paradox: There's a difference between abstract views and personal decisions. On average, strong religious beliefs and involvement in a religious community **do not make an American woman less likely to terminate her first pregnancy**, so long as she conceives without a potential marriage partner.