



Birth Control

or

Contraception

What's the difference?

Basic Biblical Principles

- Man is made in the image of God
 - Genesis 1²⁷
- Life is a gift of God
 - Acts 17²⁵
- Life is sacred
 - Genesis 9⁶, Exodus 20¹³
- Life begins at conception
 - Psalm 51⁵, Job 10⁸⁻¹²

Birth Control implies abortion

Abortion is immoral

- Partial birth abortion
- Surgical abortion
- Chemical abortion (RU 486)
- Contraceptives which act as abortifacients

What about Contraception?

4 views ...



1. Common Roman Catholic view

- Artificial contraception is immoral

(Pope John Paul VI, *Humanae Vitae*)

– *“Excluded is every action which, whether in anticipation of the conjugal act, or in its accomplishment, or in the development of its natural consequences, proposes, whether as an end or as a means to render procreation impossible.”*

- Natural Family Planning is OK

(Donald DeMarco, www.catholic.net)

– *“Because the Church’s teaching concerning contraception has roots in the natural law, she has no objection to anything that is natural.”*

2. Common Protestant view

- The Bible says nothing about contraception – therefore it is OK
- Roman Catholicism is always wrong

3. Protestation against the common Protestant view

- Children are an automatic blessing of God
 - independently of whether or not we disciple or discipline them!
- The more children I have
 - the more holy I must be!

4. Biblical view - foundations

- The Bible is our rule of faith & life
 - Biblical principles are relevant to all decisions
 - 2 Timothy 3¹⁶⁻¹⁷
- God is sovereign
 - Psalm 115³
- Man is responsible to act in wisdom
 - Luke 12⁴²
- Sin has its seat in the human heart
 - Mark 7²¹
- The Christian is being transformed by the renewing of his mind
 - Romans 12²

4. Biblical view - conclusion

- Our heart attitude is crucial
- It is legitimate to use legitimate means to seek to achieve a legitimate end
 - Contraception with a selfish attitude is wrong
 - Contraception with a godly attitude is OK
 - Conception with a selfish attitude is wrong

Selfish reasons for having children

- A child will make me feel good
- A child will make me look good
- A child will enhance my status
- A child will give me an excuse to act like a child again
- Through a child I can live out my unfulfilled dreams

Selfish reasons for NOT having children

- It would limit the luxuries I can afford
- It would interfere with my career
- It would interfere with my golf ...
- It would ruin my figure

A Biblically-informed attitude

- Children are a gift from God

– Psalm 127³

- Children can be a curse!

– Proverbs 17²⁵

- God desires that we produce godly offspring

– Genesis 1²⁸, Malachi 2¹⁵

- God opens & closes the womb

– Genesis 29³¹, 1 Samuel 1⁵

Balancing Biblical attitudes

- Children are not the ultimate good
– Mark 10¹⁸
- Children are not the only good
– Isaiah 52⁷, 1 Corinthians 7⁵
- As finite beings we do not have time to pursue everything that is good
- As finite beings we may not be able to cope with everything that is good

Some other Biblical principles

- The 6th commandment requires all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life and the life of others

– Shorter Catechism 68

- We should not risk life or wellbeing recklessly or foolishly

Application of Biblical principles

- Adam & Adelle
 - missionaries to land with 1-child policy
- Brad & Britany
 - risk of breakdown
- Cliff & Chloe
 - a child with special needs

It all comes down to **ATTITUDE**

- Pray for God to reveal our attitudes
- Pray for God to transform our attitudes
- Pray for God to give us wisdom
& discernment

If contraception is warranted by the right attitude – what to use?

- Medical IUD
 - abortifacient
- Hormonal Pill
 - mimics pregnancy
 - tertiary action as abortifacient
- Barrier Condom / Diaphragm
- Timing Billings
- Surgical Vasectomy / Tubal ligation

The Word of the Lord

- **Romans 12¹⁻²**

I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- **Philippians 2³⁻⁵**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

Questions & Comments ...

