

What Does the Bible Say About Birth Control?

by Robert Babecka

God's view on non-procreative sex is clearly shown in Genesis, chapter 38, when he responded to Onan's withdrawal. Those passages are discussed in "Protestants and Birth Control." What's left? Is that all scripture has to say?

God commanded us to be fruitful and multiply. (Genesis 1:28) Likewise, Jesus condemned the fig tree for not bearing fruit. (Matthew 21:18 - 19) To the response of some that they cannot afford to obey that command Christ's explanation to the apostles seems appropriate, "You will receive all that you pray for, provided you have faith." (Matthew 21:22)

Children are a blessing from the Lord, not a burden. "Children too are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children born in one's youth. Blessed are they whose quivers are full. They will never be shamed contending with foes at the gate." (Psalm 127)

Castration and barrenness are defects. "No one whose testicles have been crushed or whose penis has been cut off may be admitted into the community of the LORD." (Deuteronomy 23) "The LORD, your God, you shall worship; then I will bless your food and drink, and I will remove all sickness from your midst; no woman in your land will be barren or miscarry; and I will give you a full span of life." (Exodus 23)

The raising of children is the natural path toward salvation for women. "For Adam was formed first, then Eve. Further, Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed. But she will be saved through motherhood, provided women persevere in faith and love and holiness, with self-control." (1Timothy 2)

We are not to separate what God has joined as one flesh. "But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother (and be joined to his wife), and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." (Mark 10) Obviously, contraception separates this "one flesh." It is most clearly seen when a condom is used.

The passages quoted are not the only ones supporting these principles. There are other examples. There are no passages supporting contrary views. These passages serve to show how far our society has moved from the view of the world contained in sacred scripture.