

## Birth Control, pt 2

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

1. Historical overview of family planning (CCEF Article, *Birth Dearth or Bring on the Babies?*)

2. Biblical Principles

- a. Children are a **blessing** and a gift from the Lord.
- b. Singleness (and therefore childlessness) is not a **curse**.
- c. Sex within marriage has **several** purposes.

**Procreation**

**Unity**

**Pleasure**

**Protection** from sexual temptation

3. Three views on family planning

- a. Babies are an option: The **Arranged** Family
- b. Bring on the babies: the **Unrestricted** Family
- c. Children, a Blessing and a Trust: **Valuing** Children but **Limiting** Family Size

4. What methods of birth control are morally acceptable?

- a. Methods of birth control that \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy should not be utilized.
- b. Methods that operate \_\_\_\_\_ by preventing \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable.

Recommended resources:

*What Is the Meaning of Sex?* Denny Burk

*Intended for Pleasure*, Ed Wheat, M.D. and Gaye Wheat

*Christian Ethics*, Wayne Grudem

## Bioethics

1. While genetic testing can be helpful, the \_\_\_\_\_ taken as a result may be immoral.
  - a. Man is made in the image of God, including \_\_\_\_\_ people, therefore any action that takes the life of a person is wrong.
  - b. A person should not be \_\_\_\_\_ against based on the probability he or she will be affected by a genetic disease.
  - c. Gene \_\_\_\_\_ may be acceptable but we should proceed with caution.
2. Sex selection may be appropriate in \_\_\_\_\_ medical situations provided no human life is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Artificial Insemination
4. In Vitro Fertilization
5. Stem Cell Research
6. Organ donation
7. Vaccines and fetal tissue

### Recommended resources:

*Christian Ethics*, Wayne Grudem – Chapter 30: Infertility, Reproductive Technology, and Adoption  
*Ethics for a Brave New World*, Feinberg and Feinberg – Chapters 9-12 on genetic engineering

On vaccines and fetal tissue:

Michigan Right to Life article:

[https://www.rtl.org/prolife\\_issues/LifeNotes/VaccinesAbortion\\_FetalTissue.html](https://www.rtl.org/prolife_issues/LifeNotes/VaccinesAbortion_FetalTissue.html)

Vatican response article: <https://www.ncbcenter.org/files/1714/3101/2478/vaticanresponse.pdf>



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## 1. Historical overview of family planning

CCEF Article, *Birth Dearth or Bring on the Babies?*

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## 2. Biblical Principles

- a. Children are a **blessing** and a gift from the Lord.
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## 2. Biblical Principles

- c. Sex within marriage has **several** purposes.
  - Procreation**
  - Unity**
  - Pleasure**
  - Protection** from sexual temptation

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### 3. Three views on family planning

- a. Babies are an option: The Arranged Family
- b. Bring on the babies: the Unrestricted Family
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### 4. What methods of birth control are morally acceptable?

- a. Methods of birth control that terminate pregnancy should not be utilized.  
IUD (Intrauterine Device)

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### 4. What methods of birth control are morally acceptable?

Planned Parenthood website

Both the copper and hormonal IUDs work mainly by affecting the way sperm move so they can't join with an egg. If sperm cannot join with an egg, pregnancy cannot happen.

WebMD

Hormonal IUD . . . prevents fertilization by damaging or killing sperm and making the mucus in the cervix thick and sticky, so sperm can't get through to the uterus. It also keeps the lining of the uterus (endometrium) from growing very thick. This makes the lining a poor place for a fertilized egg to implant and grow. The hormones in this IUD also reduce menstrual bleeding and cramping.

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IUD (Intrauterine Device)  
Birth control pills?

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#### 4. What methods of birth control are morally acceptable?

*Physicians Desk Reference* all versions of the Pill work by employing the same 3 basic mechanisms of action:

- Prevent ovulation

- Alter the cervical build up of mucus, increasing the difficulty of sperm entering the uterus and fertilizing the egg

- Inhibit the endometrium (uterine lining), making it incapable of supporting the fertilized egg if conception occurs

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#### 4. What methods of birth control are morally acceptable?

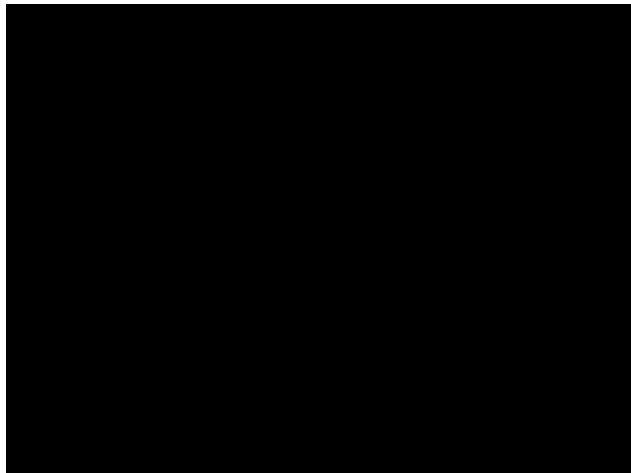
b. Methods that operate solely by preventing conception are acceptable.

- Condoms and other barrier methods

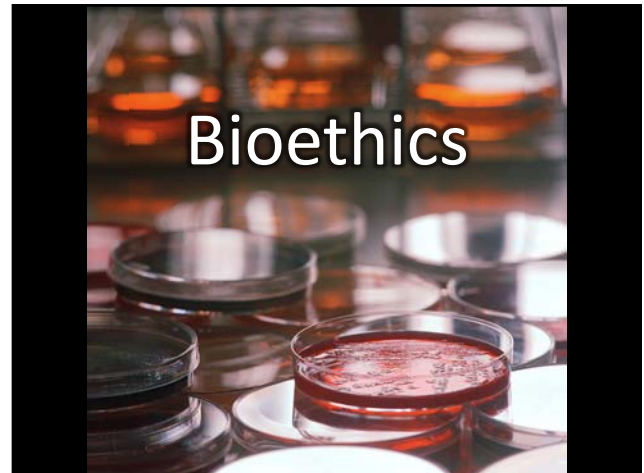
- Natural Family Planning

- Permanent methods of sterilization should be prayerfully and carefully considered.

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Francis Collins: "It's a history book - a narrative of the journey of our species through time. It's a shop manual, with an incredibly detailed blueprint for building every human cell. And it's a transformative textbook of medicine, with insights that will give health care providers immense new powers to treat, prevent and cure disease."

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1. While Genetic Testing Can Be Helpful, The **Actions** Taken As A Result May Be Immoral.

a. Man is made in the image of God, including **unborn** people, therefore any action that takes the life of a person is wrong.

**Genesis 1:26-27; 9:5-6**

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1. While Genetic Testing Can Be Helpful, The **Actions** Taken As A Result May Be Immoral.

**Psalm 139:13-16** For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; <sup>16</sup> Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

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1. While Genetic Testing Can Be Helpful, The **Actions** Taken As A Result May Be Immoral.

b. A person should not be **discriminated** against based on the probability he or she will be affected by a genetic disease.

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act in 2008

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1. While Genetic Testing Can Be Helpful, The Actions Taken As A Result May Be Immoral.

c. Gene editing may be acceptable but we should proceed with caution.

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2. Sex selection may be appropriate in limited medical situations provided no human life is taken.

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**Psalms 127:3** Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

*At some point on the continuum children cease to be a gift from God (cf. Ps. 127:3) and begin to be a parental plaything.*

-W. French Anderson  
quoted in *Ethics for a Brave New World*

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### 3. Artificial Insemination

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### 4. In Vitro Fertilization

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### 5. Stem Cell Research

Stem cells are cells that have not been differentiated into any particular kind of cell, but that are capable of forming a specific differentiated cell when given the "right" signals such as "stimulation by a hormone or 'growth factor' such as insulin, steroid hormones, or nerve growth factor."

Feinberg and Feinberg,  
*Ethics for a Brave New World*

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## 6. Organ donation

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## 7. Vaccines and fetal tissue

From the National Network for Immunization Information:

Two different strains of human diploid cell cultures made from fetuses have been used extensively for vaccine production for decades. One was developed in the United States in 1961 (called WI-38) and the other in the United Kingdom in 1966 (called MRC-5).

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## 7. Vaccines and fetal tissue

WI-38 came from lung cells from a female fetus of 3-months gestation and MRC-5 was developed from lung cells from a 14-week-old male fetus. Both fetuses were intentionally aborted, but neither was aborted for the purpose of obtaining diploid cells. The fetal tissues that eventually became WI-38 and the MRC-5 cell cultures were removed from fetuses that were dead. The cellular biologists who made the cell cultures did not induce the abortions.

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