

BIRTH CONTROL AND FERTILITY

Topic: Birth Control and Fertility

Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: We can have children only if we want them and whenever we decide we want them. Women should control their bodies and decide if and when they have children.

Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: Children are a blessing from God and we are to be fruitful and multiply. Sex should be reserved for married couples.

Why This is Important:

This is a key issue in our lives and impacts our direction in life into old age. We should know God's position on these issues and how it relates to our families.

Scripture Says:

Genesis 1:22, Genesis 1:28, Psalm 127:3-5, Mark 10:13-16, Genesis 9:1, Genesis 9:7, Genesis 17:6, Genesis 28:3, Exodus 1:7, Proverbs 17:6, Proverbs 31:28

Worth Considering:

- In vitro fertilization is the process of harvesting eggs from a woman, fertilizing them in a lab, and freezing them for later use. Sooner or later they may be sorted and the most viable embryos are implanted into a woman's womb. Many unused frozen embryos remain stored for years waiting for implantation. Some embryos are destroyed. Many die during the implantation process. Others end up in custody battles between divorcing spouses. The egg harvesting process is risky and may impact her ability to later become pregnant.
- Organizations like Nightlight Christian Adoptions help facilitate adoptions of the unused frozen embryos to another family.
- A woman's fertility drops off as she ages. Many women delay childbearing to establish careers and become financially stable before having children. Some froze their eggs and spend large

sums of money working with a surrogate to have children. Not having children or having them earlier in life is a common regret.

- No matter how prepared one is, no one is "ready" to be a parent.
- Birth rates in Europe, North America, and parts of Asia have dropped below the 2.1 replacement rate.

Questions to Consider:

- It's been said that a woman's super power is her ability to gestate and give birth to a new human life. Thoughts?
- What would you say is the strongest physical evidence for each viewpoint?
- Can the Bible and secular science be harmonized on this issue?
- Are science and faith mutually exclusive in this case? Why or why not?
- Which worldview is more likely to be a story and which is truth?
- When controversies between the Bible and science occur, why does it seem the first step is reinterpreting the meaning of the biblical text?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views on this topic?

For Further Investigation on This Topic: