

Our Fertility in God's Eyes

Am I a worker selling knives for cooking meals or for killing people? Does a God-fearing Christian have a duty to refrain from selling to the latter individual?

Our society has calmly accepted birth control by this point in time (2011). But there is a fear on my shoulders that anyone who fails to cry "foul" on this practice is severely disappointing God who created us in His image.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" is in Jeremiah 1:5. In Isaiah 49:5: "And now the LORD says--he who formed me in the womb to be his servant..." Shows that God's wisdom includes considering us human when we become a unique individual in the womb- conception. How do we honor that conception then?

I think with the same honor and wonderment that we should honor each other as vessels of the Holy Spirit. So what kind of avoidance of pregnancy is God-honoring? The Pill? Truly a cultural norm now. But are you aware that even the big promoters of the pill admit that ovulation and hence at times conception occurs while taking the pill (especially the newer low dose formulations?) Even though it is considered an unusual event, any woman using the pill for 10 years has likely allowed at least one unique individual to pass through her womb with no hope of implantation due to the effects of the pill's hormones?

We accept the fertilized embryo will be unable to implant in a woman using the IUD. And many have avoided that form of contraception knowing they would not want that guilt on their head.

There are a few instances in the Bible of "spilling seed" being displeasing to God. That should then make us think twice about barrier methods as well as mutilation (voluntary sterilization) as being unacceptable.

Good grief how are we to live then? Some imagine it is either homes teeming with lots of children or excruciating celibacy. Truly there is a middle way.



This has already been well thought out and for those who can accept it there is a wonderful option here. It is called natural family planning. Of course this is for married couples! Many joke that you have to be ready for a dozen children to use family planning. Truly any couple using this method with self-control will find any conception occurred due to a miscalculation or an intentional use of their union at a fertile time.

This can be used early in a marriage as well as later in the marriage. It does not have to involve temperature taking- it can rely on a woman making note of (usually on a calendar) her body's signals of fertility and making her husband aware of them.

It requires a husband's cooperation by the use of restraint and consideration for his wife and her cycle as well as a lot of communication regarding the desirability or not of further pregnancies. If either person has a history of uncontrolled use of their sexuality this can start out as a real struggle. But the pattern of communication and consideration it develops has many staunch advocates. Many couples say this saved their marriage or has been one of the best struggles they have shared together.

Regarding specifics, avoiding the days just preceding and after ovulation is all that is required to avoid pregnancy. And if you want to achieve pregnancy it is a little harder, because more restraint is usually required to time the union for the maximum fertility!

It is common for me to meet older couples for whom this seems positively impossible. So starting early on a natural family planning habit is ideal.

Human sexuality studies show more fertility in happier and less stressed-out couples. As we age our bodies respond less and less. We have medications that can revive a man's functioning. And they are very popular. But they should not be used while a couple ignores other emotional issues impacting their union. Kindof like turning the volume up on your iPod because you don't like hearing the loud sound of the train about to run you over.

I was brought up in this culture and I did not believe anyone but an unreasonable "Bible-banger" had such crazy ideas. I did not live the values I have now. So I say all this perhaps partly to atone, but partly to see if saying what I believe to be the truth might open the door in a few minds to hearing the truth and joy of joys... seeing someone perhaps discover the profound beauty in living their sexuality in this God-honoring way.

So if you cannot accept or live in this way I will not judge you, but I cannot be an accomplice if I am aware of my "knives" being used in a way I am convinced is wrong. Even in our practice, I don't believe others will have a moral conflict prescribing things as contraceptives or Viagra for unmarried couples, so I will take no offense to your seeking those doctors out instead of me. And maybe you got this before consulting a urologist for a possible vasectomy. I do understand the logic that brings you to such a decision. But I will hold on to my silly beliefs in the hope that 1Corinthians 3:19 is true: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God."