
Addendum 2:

THOUGHTS FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ON PROCREATION

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I. PROCREATION IS AN EXTRAORDINARY PRIVILEGE

A. God Created Us Male and Female to Have Children

1. Marriage and child bearing go together. Human sexuality is meant to produce babies. Children are the essential fruit of marriage.

Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.

Malachi 2:15 (NIV)

2. Married couples are called by God to be fruitful and multiply. We should not think of children as optional. We should not think that having or not having children is a matter of personal choice.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:28

3. Until recently starting a family naturally and immediately followed getting married.

[See article in your binder entitled, "Can Christians Use Birth Control?" by Dr. Albert Mohler.]

B. The Natural Function of Women Is Childbearing (Gen 3:16,20; 1 Tim 2:15; 5:10,14)

1. Women should aspire to have children. Barrenness was considered a great tragedy and even a disgrace in Scripture.
2. Training younger women to "love their children" (Titus 2:4) certainly includes the idea of wanting to have children.

C. Be Prepared for Children

1. Don't get married thinking you are too immature to have children.

2. Don't assume you are able to avoid having children by using birth control.
3. Beware that contraceptives are increasingly abortive (i.e., prevent fertilize egg from implanting).
4. Unexpected pregnancies still occur.
5. Unexpected pregnancies reveal the heart.

D. The Blessing of Children

1. Every couple should look forward to having children (cf. Prov 31:28).
2. Children are a blessing without qualification (Psa 127:3-5).
3. Cultivate a vision for family life.
4. Family planning is not sinful of itself.

II. THE WORLD'S VIEW OF CHILDREN

A. Worldly Influences

1. Worldly upbringing and background can contribute to an "anti-child" mentality.
2. Parents can promote worldly agenda for their married children.
3. The husband and/or wife can influence each other for the worse.

B. Selfish Thinking

1. We live in an increasingly selfish society where married couples don't want to have children. Children are viewed as an inconvenience and financial liability.
2. Couples can covet ease rather than biblical joy and holiness. Think children are too much trouble and too much work. See children as negatively restricting their freedom and devouring time.
3. Wife may not want the effects of pregnancy (e.g., distortion of body, sickness, weight gain, challenging pregnancy or delivery).
4. Wife may resent the limitations that come with motherhood.

C. A Distorted Perspective

1. Newly married couples may think the "good life" will end with children. Are wrongly concerned about impact on marriage.

2. Couple more aware of sacrifices and difficulties rather than joys and blessings that come with children.
3. When children do come, the couple may blame conflicts and struggles on them rather than own sinful hearts.
4. Rather than trust God, don't have children because they fear the future.