

# Berean Covenant Church Council on Family Issues

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**Topic: Family Planning**

**Questions to consider:**

- When should we have children, how many, how far apart, etc?
- Is birth control okay? Are all forms okay?
- Since the Bible says children are a blessing, then why wouldn't you want them?
- Is more children better? Is there a point where there's enough?
- What does the dominion mandate mean for believers today?
- What part do finances play in this?
- How does the sovereignty of God apply to this?
- What about disagreements between husband and wife?
- How does fostering children or adoption fit into family planning?

Doctrinal/Church Positions	Matters of Preference
<p><b>The motive of your heart is what is most important in deciding whether to have children or how many to have.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you <i>want</i> to have children for selfish reasons? (E. g. – this makes me look good, feel good, have a certain gender child that I've wanted, improve my marriage, seeking fulfillment through children, this is my picture of what a perfect family looks like, to meet the expectations of others)</li> <li>• Do you <i>not</i> want to have children for selfish reasons? (E.g. – they will be a burden to me, I won't be able to maintain my lifestyle, I won't be able to have my toys)</li> </ul> <p><b>It would be best to avoid any type of chemical birth control, which destroys a fertilized egg and keeps it from being implanted in the womb.</b></p> <p><b>Family planning should be a matter of prayer between husband &amp; wife.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Husband &amp; wife should be in 100% accord.</li> <li>• If both are believers and both are not in one accord, then one is not listening to the Holy Spirit, because He would not give two different messages to His children.</li> <li>• To not speak truth to your spouse about your desires regarding children is deceptive.</li> <li>• The concept of submission does not pre-empt the wife's command to not bear false witness to her husband.</li> </ul> <p><b>The dominion mandate is <i>not</i> a text that we should use to argue for having as many children as possible.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Apostle Paul would have been sinning in his statement that it is best not to marry. (1 Cor. 7:1-9)</li> <li>• The gospel intent for the dominion mandate was to fill the earth with many tribes, tongues, peoples, and nations that would be called into the bride of Christ, the Church. This has now been fulfilled, particularly by God's discipline at the Tower of Babel.</li> <li>• Believers now are called to fill the earth with disciples, not children. (Matt. 28:18-20)</li> </ul>	<p><b>The number of children to have</b></p> <p><b>Whether or not to have children</b></p> <p><b>Family planning methods that do not involve chemically destroying a fertilized egg</b></p>

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## Discussion Points

### Scripture References We Discussed

Ps. 127:3-5 → children are a heritage from the Lord; does not state how many makes a quiver full  
Ps. 127:3-5 → children are a blessing; blessing to an Old Testament family was defined by many things in their context that do not apply to our context, including financial blessings (labor from sons, dowry from daughters)  
Gen. 1:28; 9:7 → dominion mandate  
1 Cor. 7:7-24 → Paul said that it is good to remain unmarried  
1 Tim. 5:14 → younger widows marry & bear children  
Prov. 22:6 → train a child in the way he should go  
Matt. 6:25-33 → don't worry about your life; God's sovereignty  
Prov. 16:3-4 → God has made everything for His own purpose; commit your works to the Lord  
Is. 44:2 → the Lord made and formed you from the womb  
Ps. 139 → God formed us  
1 Sam. 1:5 → God closed Hannah's womb  
1 Cor. 7:1-5 → husband does not have authority over his own body & wife does not over her body  
Gen. 20:18; 29:32; 30:22 → God opening/closing wombs  
Prov. 10:1 → sons are wise & foolish (not always blessings)  
Ecc. 3:1-11 → there is a time for birth  
Luke 9:23 → deny self for Christ  
Eph. 5:22-33 → husbands love your wife as Christ does church  
Gen. 38:6-10 → man spilling seed

### Questions for more research:

The MacArthur Study Bible and MacArthur commentary give an excellent treatment of the reference in 1 Tim. 2:15 regarding women being 'saved' through the bearing of children.

To gain further understanding on the biblical concept of adoption, read *Orphanology*, by Rick Morton and Tony Merida.