

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Is Artificial Contraception Always Immoral?

Know This...

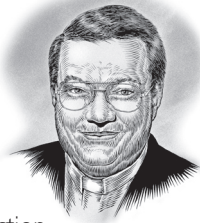
God and our culture are at odds on the matter of marriage and procreation. God is the Author of both; yet, our culture wants to redefine both. God designed marriage for a man and woman to intimately share their love for Him and each other. Together, the three bring forth life. But our culture seeks to remove God from this relationship. It sees sex as a means to self-gratification. This view ignores the deepest desire of husbands and wives: to offer themselves unconditionally to each other. Artificial contraception is always morally wrong because it places a barrier between the spouses and God's plan.



John: When husband and wife are open to new life they say to each other, "I accept all of you—especially your fertility."

James: When husband and wife use contraception they say to each other, "I don't accept all of you—especially your fertility!"

John: A husband and wife's salvation—their entry into heaven—is tied up in their openness to God's plan for marriage.



James: Using contraception is a rejection of God's plan. It places the user in an objective state of mortal sin. Anyone willingly using contraception should not receive Holy Communion.

John: To take Communion, one must go to Confession, do penance, and resolve to stop using contraception.

James: Receiving Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin is self-condemning and sacrilegious.

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"But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ^{Mk 10:6-8a} "Seeing a fig tree by the road, Jesus went over to it, but found nothing on it except leaves. And he said to it, 'May no fruit ever come from you again.' And immediately the fig tree withered." ^{Mt 21:19}

"Let all be convinced that human life and the duty of transmitting it are not limited by the horizons of this life only: their true evaluation and full significance can be understood only in reference to man's eternal destiny." ^{Vatican II}

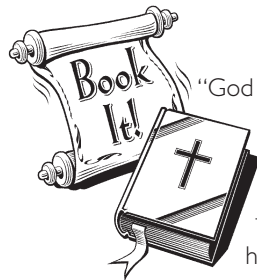


The Church is open to the proper use of natural family planning: "Periodic continence, that is, the methods of birth regulation based on self-observation and the use of infertile periods, is in conformity with the objective criteria of morality. These methods respect the bodies of the spouses, encourage tenderness between them, and favor the education of an authentic freedom." ^{CCC 2370}

PAPA SAYS

"It is necessary that each and every marriage act remain ordered per se to the procreation of human life." ^{Pope Paul VI, Humanae Vitae}

"If [upright men] care to reflect upon the consequences of methods of artificial birth control, let them consider first of all, how wide and easy a road would thus be opened up towards conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality... the man, growing used to the employment of anticonceptive practices, may finally lose respect for the woman and... may come to the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment." ^{Pope Paul VI, Humanae Vitae}



"God blessed them, saying: 'Be fertile and multiply.'" ^{Gen 1:28a} "Judah said to Onan, 'Unite with your brother's widow... and thus preserve your brother's line.' Onan, however... wasted his seed on the ground, to avoid contributing offspring for his brother. What he did greatly offended the Lord, and the Lord took his life too." ^{Gen 38:8-10} "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord... For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself." ^{1 Cor 11:27, 29}

Father, you are the Author of life. You call each husband and wife to be Your co-creator in bringing forth new life. Our culture openly rejects Your design for marital intimacy. I pray that we will reject the culture of death that begins with the use of artificial contraception. Grant this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

