

CHILD BEARING AND ABORTION

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One of the challenges of marriage is the subject of child bearing and abortion. Sometimes, the inability to have a child brings a lot of crisis in the home; sometimes, it is the issue of too many children - the problem of having more children than one can take care of and the financial struggles that follows it, abortion and other challenges.

Someone once told me she married for the purpose of child bearing. That is to say she has no interest in living with a man except for having children legally. Some men treat their wives as someone just in his house to satisfy his sexual desires and bear children for him. It appears that many marry for procreation and not for companionship. This is an error that makes marriage uninteresting and full of crisis. For when the purpose of marriage is wrong, then the marriage itself will not work well. While I agree that one of the purposes of marriage is for procreation, it must also be clearly stated that procreation is not the main purpose of marriage. God declared that, "it is not good for the man to be alone", so He decided to make a helper for man. A helper is a companion, assistant, associate, partner, and a helper that suits his kind of person. A helper is someone to help him go through life successfully; she is supposed to make life easy and stress free for the man. Unfortunately, many have made the lives of their husbands a living hell. When original purpose is fully understood, then the issue of child bearing becomes manageable. For when childbearing is the main purpose of marriage, then the spouse is not very important and major decisions being made will not be sound, but lopsided.

When two individuals come together in marriage because they love each other, child bearing challenges will not tear them apart. Inability to bear children will not weaken their love for each other or separate them. They will be able to plan how many children they want and can afford to take care of because they don't want anything that will weaken their love for each other or take their place in the home. Couples must value each other so much that children don't come in between them. You should value your marriage above your children or the desire to have children. Marrying solely for bearing children will make your marriage sour and bitter as issues pertaining to child bearing and training of children will rock your marriage.

Procreation an important purpose of marriage

Child bearing is one of the purposes of marriage. When God created marriage, He had in mind that through it the earth will be populated with humans as man begins to procreate. This explains the desire of almost every person in marriage to have children, when children are not forthcoming, worries and crisis seem to find their way into their marriage. God did not plan that the issue of child bearing should divide the marriage, but that children should strengthen it.

A couple has the right to decide to have or not to have children, and how many children they should have. It is advisable that one have children, at least one child to fulfill the original purpose of God to populate the earth through child bearing. I believe that as God's children, we should do God's will as well as pray for His will to be done on earth. Praying for His will to be done on earth and refusing to yield to His will of populating the earth through child bearing is not right. If we were created for His pleasure, it will be right if we submit to His will of child bearing.

Rev 4:11-5:1

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

KJV

Submit to His will and bear children, but only as many as you can train up successfully.

Marriage without children

The irony of life is that while some are not willing to have children though they are very potent and fertile, some are eager to have children, but for one reason or the other, cannot have children. While some are throwing away children, abandoning or killing children, some are praying and searching for help to have children. When a marriage has not produced any child, many problems set in. Some come from the spouse, some from in-laws, and some from family members. Sometimes, things heat up to the point that the marriage is greatly threatened such that survival becomes extremely difficult.

Handling the problems of a childless marriage

It is important that we all agree to the fact that marriage with or without a child should produce happiness. First, we marry the one we love to share our lives together till death separates us. With or without a child, that love must be kept intact, and none is to behave as if the reason for marriage is for child bearing. Though having a child is the desire of all who go into marriage, the issue of child bearing should not tear down any marriage.

Our daughter was born to us shortly before our marriage clocked seven. Throughout those waiting years, we never acted as if our happiness in marriage was only tied to having a child, and our families were very understanding of our situation and faith, that they never pressured us but only encouraged and prayed for us. This helped us to concentrate and continue to worship and serve God in the capacity wherein He has called us without distraction.

Never let the delay in child bearing get into you to the point of losing interest in your marriage or begin regretting ever marrying the one you married. Look up to God for strength and healing as you continue life as if there is no challenge in your life. Never grumble against God. Trust God with all your heart. Stand upon the promises of God in the Bible. Take God's promises to Him continually as you wait in hope. Go for prayers. If deliverance is needed, go for it with all your heart without delay. Go for medical treatment where and when necessary. Avoid quarrels during fertility period of the woman's circle, which is always planned by the enemy to occur at such a time to prevent sexual union that can lead to pregnancy. Watch out for this because it is a tool that the devil uses without many knowing. Avoid quarrels and keeping record of wrongs. Let your heart be free from bitterness.

Family planning and God

Is it evil to plan one's marriage? Can one determine the sex of a baby? Which is better – a male or female child? These are some of the questions that family planning seeks to answer. Family planning is not evil. It is better to have only children that you can train and take care of, than to have so many and not be able to feed, clothe and educate them. It is better to have a manageable

family than to have an oversize family. Family planning does not encourage abortion but seeks to prevent pregnancy from occurring and to have children only when you want them. Family planning teaches how to understand the woman's ovulation cycle to take advantage of knowledge of the human body and timing to determine if it is the male or female sperm that should fertilize the egg that is released from the ovary of the woman.

Abortion

Abortion is the termination of a pregnancy. It is the killing of an unborn child. Though, those who practice it do not want to call it the killing of an unborn child, they will rather call it the evacuation of a foetus. The truth still remains that the foetus is an unborn child. It is as much a living being as a when the body is fully grown and ready for delivery. In the sight of God, it is killing of a living being. It is murder. Since God is against the killing of a living being that has blood just as the unborn child has, abortion is evil and not a good thing. Rather than commit abortion, it is advisable to prevent pregnancy. And when by mistake, pregnancy occurs, the child should be allowed to live and be born and be loved just equally as you love your other children. I do not think it is right for a Christian couple to abort a child they do not want. Abortion is taking life from the one it has been given.

However, there might be special cases when the medical doctors may by the reason of their training and circumstances on ground prescribe an abortion to save the life of a woman; under such circumstance abortion may be considered to save a life that is greatly at risk.

Coping with the responsibilities of child bearing

Bearing children is not as easy as it sounds. Many modern women do not want to have children because of the stress that is involved in conception, pregnancy and delivery and raising of children. No matter what the responsibilities may be, bearing children is a God ordained experience that one has to go through in life. If it was not so, man would have been extinct by now.

Mentally

Every woman must mentally prepare to face the challenges of conception, pregnancy, delivery and raising of children. All negative concepts that have been imbibed and held unto that discourage from child bearing should be thrown away, and a positive attitude cultivated. Pregnancy is not evil. If your physical body or shape is changed, don't worry, after delivery, it will come back to normal again. Don't concentrate your mind on the things that make child bearing dreadful or interesting.

Raising children can be demanding mentally, but it's part of the responsibilities of marital life that must be faced head on and overcome with joy. Sowing into the life of your child that will become a great person tomorrow to the glory of God is fun. Think of the fun you could have as you watch the tiny baby grow to manhood with a lot of investment of time, love and money from you and your spouse. Be positive about child bearing no matter what happens in your own case.

Emotionally

You need to be prepared to face the hormonal imbalance that creates changes in the emotions of the pregnant mother. It is not destructive but part of the changes one has to go through in life.

The purpose of preparation is to know how to take control of the swing in moods and not allow your emotions to control you. Raising children has its own challenges that can upset you emotionally. However, you must take charge and remain positive.

Physically

Body changes - figure and shape, body changes as a result of hormonal changes as pregnancies and child births occur are not harmful or a cause for alarm or enough to scare you from having babies. Sometimes it can be tiring and exhaustive, but yet full of fun and laughter.

CONCLUSION

It is important that abortion should not be considered by anyone, especially Christians, except when it is to save the life of the pregnant woman. It also important that couples allow themselves to be used by God to fulfill His revealed will to populate the earth through child bearing. Give birth, but, to only as many as you can take care of. Keep your thoughts pure and positive about child bearing so that bearing children will not scare you. Take your time to train your children in the way of the Lord so that they will be a blessing to their generation. Invest time, love, money and experience in them. Do not allow your job, business, money making and career to keep you from investing into their lives. If children are worth having, they are worth investing time and love in.

WORD OF WISDOM

- 1. The atmosphere you create determines your experience.**
- 2. Don't give your ears to gossip. What you hear repeatedly, you will eventually believe. Please read proverbs 26:20-28.**
- 3. Never allow what people say about your spouse to form your opinion about him or her.**
- 4. Never allow what people say about you to change your scriptural opinion of yourself. You are who God says you are. You have what God says you have. You can do what God says you can do.**
- 5. Never allow what people say to change your godly principles upon which your marriage and relationship is built.**
- 6. What you think of your partner is more important than what people think about him or her.**
- 7. Like the soil to seeds, so also the mind to words.**
- 8. Give your mind to what will enhance love, unity, happiness and celebration in your home.**
- 9. Guide your mind with all diligence.
"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life".
(Prov.4: 23)**