

# WHY ARE WE AGAINST BIRTH CONTROL?

The abortion providing giant Planned Parenthood states that birth control is “fundamental to improving not only women’s health, but the health of their families as well.”<sup>1</sup> They also say that increased access to birth control will prevent unplanned pregnancies.

Unfortunately, this is just rhetoric. The on-line newspaper “Daily Beast” had an article which stated that “a January 2011 fact sheet by the pro-abortion rights Guttmacher Institute listed all the reasons that women who have had an abortion give for their unexpected pregnancy, and not one of them is lack of access to contraception. In fact, 54 percent of women who had abortions had used a contraceptive method, if incorrectly; in the month they got pregnant. For the 46 percent who had not used contraception, 33 percent had perceived themselves to be at low risk for pregnancy; 32 percent had had concerns about contraceptive methods; 26 percent had had unexpected sex, and 1 percent had been forced to have sex. Not one fraction of 1 percent said they got pregnant because they lacked access to contraception. Some described having unexpected sex, but all that can be said about them is that they are irresponsible, not that they felt they lacked access to contraception.”<sup>2</sup>

With all the arguments and contradictions about birth control from pro-abortion groups and more, it is sometimes easy to lose sight of just what has happened in our country due to the proliferation of birth control since the 1960’s. Read on to gain a better understanding of the reasons we are in opposition to birth control.

## **The Medical Reason**

To understand how hormonal birth control works, you must first understand how a woman’s reproductive system works. Here’s a simple explanation. A woman’s menstrual cycle is generally about 28 days in length. During the first three weeks of the cycle, hormones are secreted to build up the lining of the uterus and also to stimulate the ovaries to release an egg. The egg is eventually released into the fallopian tube. If there are no sperm present to fertilize the egg, it eventually dissolves and then the uterine lining is shed during the last week of the cycle (when a woman has her period). If sperm ARE present and the egg is fertilized, then the new life travels down the fallopian tube and is implanted in the uterus to continue development over the next 9 months.

Hormonal birth control is made up of synthetic hormones which are supposed to prevent the ovaries from releasing an egg. Many hormonal birth control pills also have a component which prevents the uterus from building up a suitable lining for the new life, and also one which increases vaginal mucus so that sperm have a hard time making it through to reach the egg.

This is the way birth control pills are supposed to work. However, there are many variables. Some women still ovulate because their own hormones may be stronger than those in the pill,

or they miss a day of the pill, or they don't take it on a strict schedule. In these cases, conception can still take place if the sperm reaches the fallopian tubes. However, the new human life will travel down the tube to the uterus, and the altered lining of the uterus prevents the life from attaching. In this case, the new life is "aborted" and shed with the uterine lining during the period woman's period. While this is a small probability, the chance is still there, which is why we use the word "abortifacient" for hormonal birth control.

In addition to the abortifacient components of hormonal birth control, you should also know that the National Cancer Institute advises that the use of oral contraceptives increases the risk of breast, cervical and liver cancer<sup>3</sup>, or that the International Agency for Research of the World Health Organization states that "artificial contraceptives are carcinogenic on a par with cigarettes and asbestos."<sup>4</sup>

Unfortunately, the news that we hear about hormonal contraceptives is more often political rather than about the safety of the drugs. The sad part of all of this is that Planned Parenthood continues to say that women's health is their main concern, yet they push birth control and abortion instead of responsible behavior.

### **The "Contraceptive Mentality" Reason**

We often hear from pro-abortion advocates that women and men have a right to control their ability to get pregnant through the use of birth control, including the use of condoms, IUD's, birth control pills or more. These things are said in the context of sex outside of marriage, which is increasingly common, widely accepted, and visibly flaunted in television programming, books, movies and more. 50 or 60 years ago, this was never seen. In fact, sex on television and in the movies was hardly referred to. Family television programs often portray married couples sleeping in separate beds, and there was rarely, if at all, any reference to sex outside of marriage.

Times have changed, that is for certain. In today's modern lifestyle, we're increasingly facing the message that sex is a pleasurable, natural act present in all species that should be enjoyed without restrictions, and that we should teach our children to be responsible.....meaning don't ABSTAIN from sex, just use birth control so that they don't get "burdened" or "punished" with an unplanned pregnancy.

What some people don't understand is that there is a BIG difference between other species and humans. We have a mind and an intellect that allows us to make informed choices. We are supposed to be responsible human beings that can determine what is the best choice to make that will affect not only ourselves, but anyone else who is affected by the decisions we make.

We must first look at what sexual intercourse is meant for. In all species, sex is supposed to be for the procreation of the species. The purpose of contraception is to separate intercourse from procreation so that the contracepting partners can enjoy the pleasures of sex without the fear that their sexual activity could lead to a pregnancy. **The "contraceptive mentality" results when this separation of intercourse from procreation is taken for granted and the contracepting partners feel that, in employing contraception, they have severed themselves**

**from all responsibility for a conception that might take place as a result of contraceptive failure. Somewhat ironically, this practice of using contraception to relinquish responsibility for one's own offspring is, in the minds of many, consistent with "being responsible" and even with "responsible parenting." At any rate, the "contraceptive mentality" implies that a couple have not only the *means* to separate intercourse from procreation, but the *right* or *responsibility* as well.<sup>5</sup>**

The contraceptive mentality has altered the moral character of our society. This is stated so clearly by Dr. Janet Smith, a philosophy professor at the University of Dallas:

“...once a fairly reliable contraceptive appeared on the scene, this barrier to sex outside the confines of marriage fell. The connection between sex and love also fell quickly; ever since contraception became widely used, there has been much talk of, acceptance of, and practice of casual sex and recreational sex. The deep meaning that is inherent in sexual intercourse has been lost sight of; the willingness to engage in sexual intercourse with another is no longer a result of a deep commitment to another. It no longer bespeaks a willingness to have a child with another and to have all the consequent entanglements with another that babies bring. Contraception helps reduce one's sexual partner to just a sexual object as it renders sexual intercourse to be without any real commitments.”<sup>6</sup>

You would think that increased use of birth control and the contraceptive mentality would lead to fewer pregnancies, but the exact opposite is the result. Number one, contraceptives have led to an increase in casual sex. With an increase in sex, there is an increase as well in the numbers of unplanned pregnancies simply because the ratio of contraceptive failure rises with the ratio of increased sex. Using Centers for Disease Control data, the use of contraceptives shows clear links to increased sexual activity, and increased sexually transmitted disease (STD). It also shows that more sex equals more pregnancies because contraception is not 100% effective. The mass distribution of contraception is mirrored in an increase in sexual activity.<sup>7</sup>

The Guttmacher Institute, which is a Planned Parenthood affiliate, conducted research in the United States, Cuba, Denmark, the Netherlands, Singapore and South Korea which shows *simultaneous increases in both abortion rates and contraceptive use*.<sup>8</sup> Results of a pilot program in the United Kingdom to distribute emergency contraception to teenagers under 16 shows that it has not only NOT cut the rate of pregnancy, but has actually spurred a rise in STDs. Statistics show that the United Kingdom has the highest teen pregnancy rate in Western Europe, and that the rate of contracting STDs in teenagers under 16 has risen 58% in the last 5 years!<sup>9</sup>

In 1968, Pope Paul the VI issued a letter entitled “*Humanae Vitae*” (Of Human Life) to the Catholic Church. In it, he forecast what would happen to the world with the use of contraceptives. In 1998, Archbishop Chaput wrote an article about Pope Paul's letter, of which the following are excerpts:<sup>10</sup>

- “...he warned that the widespread use of contraception would lead to "conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality." Exactly this has happened. Few would

deny that the rates of abortion, divorce, family breakdown, wife and child abuse, venereal disease and out of wedlock births have all massively increased since the mid-1960s. Obviously, the birth control pill has not been the only factor in this unraveling. But it has played a major role. In fact, the cultural revolution since 1968, driven at least in part by transformed attitudes toward sex, would not have been possible or sustainable without easy access to reliable contraception. In this, Paul VI was right.”

- “...he also warned that man would lose respect for woman and "no longer [care] for her physical and psychological equilibrium," to the point that he would consider her "as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion." In other words, according to the Pope, contraception might be marketed as liberating for women, but the real "beneficiaries" of birth control pills and devices would be men. Three decades later, exactly as Paul VI suggested, contraception has released males -- to a historically unprecedented degree -- from responsibility for their sexual aggression. In the process, one of the stranger ironies of the contraception debate of the past generation has been this: Many feminists have attacked the Catholic Church for her alleged disregard of women, but the Church in *Humanae Vitae* identified and rejected sexual exploitation of women years before that message entered the cultural mainstream. Again, Paul VI was right.”
- He “...also warned that widespread use of contraception would place a "dangerous weapon . . . in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies." As we have since discovered, eugenics didn't disappear with Nazi racial theories in 1945. Population control policies are now an accepted part of nearly every foreign aid discussion. The massive export of contraceptives, abortion and sterilization by the developed world to developing countries -- frequently as a prerequisite for aid dollars and often in direct contradiction to local moral traditions -- is a thinly disguised form of population warfare and cultural re-engineering. Again, Paul VI was right.”

More recently, radio and television personality Rush Limbaugh chimed in with his viewpoints about the morality of our country:

“I really think that abortion is at the root -- you could do a flowchart -- I think abortion is at the root of so much that has and is going wrong in this country. I think that the number of abortions themselves, but what in toto it all means, culturally, in terms of the sanctity of life, how that's crumbled, I think it's almost at the root of everything. And if it's not at the root of everything, it's clearly had a profound impact on our culture, our society, and our politics, I think in ways that people don't even stop to consider. None of it good and it's caused all kinds of horrible problems that nobody knows how to fix. Because they refuse to even accept that abortion is more than what it is. To most people, it's just a woman's right to choose, and it's nobody's business, and leave it alone and I don't want to talk about it. But it's really had much more impact on this country than just that. It's had impact on crime. It's had a profound impact on our politics. It is at the root of our cultural rot and decay. You can trace the problems with accepting personal responsibility, no consequences for your actions,

you can trace so much right back to it. And I'm not talking about the women. I'm talking the overall effect of a society having literally no problem with eliminating 52 million of its citizens. That can't be good. Much of it is a subliminal subconscious effect, obviously. It's not something that's apparent. But it makes all kinds of sense when it's explained to you, and perhaps someday I will.”<sup>11</sup>

Birth Control, no matter what form, doesn't prevent abortions. In fact, it provides a false sense of security. In essence, the contraceptive mentality has led to an increase in abortion. You just can't separate the two.

Written by Denise Leipold June, 2013

## References

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