

THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART ONE

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Being Open To God's Word, Our Will And God's Will, God's Commandment To Be Fruitful, Modern Selfish Attitudes, An Heritage Of The Lord, Hired By The Lord, Without God, Safe Sex Or Selfish Sex?, The Temptation Of Planned Parenthood, Trusting In The Lord, Manipulation Through Fear, Fear Of Overpopulation, Personal Responsibility, Manipulative Movies God's Love And Care, God's Household, The Lord's Provision, Don't Worry About The Future, God's Contract, If The Lord Will, God's Impossible Situations, Mary's Yieldedness

Recently, a Christian friend wrote to me concerning some questions he has regarding marriage, children and birth control. Although he has read my article entitled 'Abortion, Birth Control And Promiscuity' several times now, it seems that he still hasn't been able to come to any firm conclusions in his own heart regarding these matters; thus, in addition to seeking my advice, he has continued to delve into the Scriptures, hoping to find the Lord's answers to his questions.

In thinking about this situation, the first thing that entered my mind, is that if we are going to search the Scriptures for the truth regarding a certain matter, as did the Bereans in the Book of Acts, we must make certain that it is not a self-defeating process. In others words, if we search the Scriptures with the attitude that our minds are already made up, and we are only looking for verses which will support what we have already chosen to believe, regardless of what the full counsel of God might tell us, then we are just wasting our time. Not only that, but we also place ourselves in the potential position of falling under delusion. In short, as I explain in other articles which deal with finding the Will of God, such as 'What Is God's Will For My Life?' and 'Are You Crucified With Christ?', we must make sure that our will is aligned with the Lord's Will, and that we are not purposely resisting the truth which He may be trying to show us through His Word. In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote the following wise lines:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:1,2, KJV

As you can see, Paul is telling us that in order to find the perfect Will of God, we must make sure that both our body and our mind, is yielded to the Lord in every area. In fact, Paul tells us that we must have a renewed mind; that is, we

must forsake our own ideas, and what we think is right, and put on the mind of Christ, as Paul explains in this verse:

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

We must think and act as Christ thought, and be totally yielded to the Will of the Father, just as Jesus was. We must be willing to wholeheartedly accept the Lord's program, no matter how difficult and challenging it may be, even when it contradicts our own personal plans, and what we feel we want to do. In the following verses, Jesus referred to this sacrificial surrendering of our will, mind and body to the Lord, as taking up our cross daily, in order to follow Him:

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." Luke 9:23,24, KJV

While we might be tempted to view these verses as having a purely symbolic meaning, the truth of the matter is, that the physical is a manifestation of the spiritual; and if we are not willing to submit our physical bodies to God's Will, as 'a living sacrifice' in the words of the Apostle Paul, might this be an indication that there is something wrong with our spiritual attitude as well? In my various articles concerning discipleship, I make clear that God owns all of us. We are His possessions, bought with the precious Blood of His dear Son. As such, He can do whatever He wants with us. The Apostle Paul says this very thing in his first Epistle to the Corinthians:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 Corinthians 6:19,20, KJV

Notice that Paul states quite clearly 'ye are not your own', because we are bought with a price. Because of this fact, he says that we are to glorify God in both our body and in our spirit, which are God's. Your body, and your spirit, belong to God, and not to you. Do you see that? God has first rights over you entirely. Now, if we truly believe that our entire spiritual and physical being belongs to God, doesn't it stand to reason that in matters regarding pregnancy and childbirth, the only right attitude for the Christian to have, is to place our faith in God, by allowing Him to decide whether or not He wants us to have any children? If children are an heritage of the Lord, as the Psalmist tells us, is not having children one way of glorifying God in our bodies? While we sometimes like to boast of how many spiritual children we have had, by leading others to the Lord, what if the Lord wants us to have His physical children as well? In such cases, are we just as willing and yielded to His Will? Furthermore, might it be that by practicing some form of birth control, we are in effect trying to pre-empt what might be the Will of God, either due

to our own lack of faith, or possibly for even more selfish reasons?

In the world today, one major issue discussed between the sexes, concerns who has the right over a woman's body. This argument is particularly popular with those who advocate and promote abortion as a viable and acceptable form of birth control. Of course, those who support this ungodly practice refer to it as an act of personal responsibility. While many of these ungodly, selfish women claim that they have the final say when it comes to deciding the fate of the unborn child they carry within, the truth of the matter is, that God, the Creator and Giver of life, has the final say, whether they like it, or can admit to it or not. Sadly, in many cases, the Lord has long since been rubbed out of the picture, and some women and couples couldn't care less what God thinks of their selfish actions. This is the only way in which they can effectively resist the godly conviction which the Lord places upon their hearts; that is, by denying the very existence of the One who created them to begin with, as well as their unborn child.

This person went on to say that since their marriage several years earlier, both he and his wife have felt that children may not be a part of their future. Due to my knowledge of the Scriptures regarding this topic, I was taken back a bit upon reading this comment. My initial question is to ask whether or not the Lord has specifically revealed this to them through His Word, or if this is just their personal desire not to have children. I was immediately reminded of the following verse found in the Book of Psalms, which I mentioned a moment ago. In the Book of Genesis, we also find the phrase 'be fruitful, and multiply' five times:

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalms 127:3, KJV

"And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth." Genesis 1:22, KJV

"And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Genesis 1:28, KJV

"Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth." Genesis 8:17, KJV

"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." Genesis 9:1, KJV

"And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;" Genesis 35:11, KJV

How very different is the attitude in the world today where many unyielded men and women seek to go against the Lord's original commandment given to Adam and Eve, to His natural Creation, to Noah after the Flood, and to Jacob. Instead of accepting the Lord's blessing of fruitfulness in their lives, many married couples are resorting to every physical means possible, from 'the pill', to diaphragms, to condoms, to rhythmic birth control, to the murderous act of abortion, in order to reject what may be God's Will for their lives. It is truly ironic that while some couples desire with all of their hearts to have children, others selfishly and coldheartedly reject this blessing in their lives. Please notice that in the previous verse from the Book of Psalms, we are specifically told that 'children are an heritage of the Lord'. The word 'heritage' is derived from the Hebrew word 'nachalah', pronounced nakh-al-aw', which means possession, property, inheritance, heritage, portion or share.

In one regard, we can look at this as meaning that our children belong to the Lord; they are His possession; and we are merely being made temporary Earthly stewards over them. The fact that we have even been considered worthy of bearing and raising the children of the King, should be counted as a great blessing, and we should take it seriously. In looking at the additional meanings of the Hebrew word 'nakh-al-aw', we can also consider that the number of children we have in this life is our portion, or share, from the Lord. The word 'reward' in that same verse is derived from the Hebrew word 'sakar'. Pronounced saw-kawr', it means hire, wages, pay, fare, fee, or passage-money. In this case, given the context of the verse, the most likely meaning is hire. Like the servants mentioned in Jesus' various parables found in the four Gospels, we might say that when a wife becomes pregnant, she has been hired by the Lord, to raise His children properly with a knowledge of the Lord and His Word. Sadly, as I point out in such articles as 'Plight Of The Children', so many many parents fail at this important God-ordained task.

Disgracefully, as we have already seen, even though they have been hired by the Lord, many modern, selfish women, particularly those in the United States of America, do not want the job. As mothers-to-be, they, and their spouses, must realize that God knows what we can each handle, and that He will bless us accordingly. A main part of the problem is that because so many married couples in the world today have rejected God in their lives, they have no one in whom they can truly place their faith and confidence, except in themselves, and in their own abilities and human limitations. They think that they have to do it all on their own. In fact, they foolishly think that they can do as they please, and that they will never have to pay the consequences for their acts of selfishness. Someday soon, they will realize how terribly wrong they have been. In thinking about this, I am reminded of something the Apostle Paul said regarding the Endtime in his second Epistle to Timothy:

"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than

lovers of God;" 2 Timothy 3:4, KJV

Surely Paul's words are right on target in describing the attitude which is prevalent in the world today. Many people truly are more interested in selfish, carnal, unbridled sexual pleasures, than in pleasing the Lord. They want to enjoy sex, but not have to pay the price of the fruit which may result from their sexual encounters. Thus they resort to birth control, abortion, and unhealthy relationships with persons of the same sex in order to steer clear of the responsibility. While the world has labeled it as 'safe sex', might a more appropriate term be 'selfish sex'?

To add some balance to my words, allow me to state that I know that it is common for many parents, even Christian parents, to worry about the future; particularly when their number of children begins to multiply. We begin to consider such factors as the high cost of living, limited living space, an inadequate income, the cost of a formal education, etc. There are all kinds of seemingly 'legitimate' reasons for us to consider the option of planned parenthood; however, when the temptation of birth control enters our hearts, we need to remember the following words of the Apostle Paul found in his first Epistle to the Corinthians:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."
1 Corinthians 10:13, KJV

This is where personal faith enters the picture. As God-fearing Christian parents, we must place our faith fully and totally in the Lord. We must trust so much in His love for His children, that we know that He will take care of every situation, if we will only give Him the time to work. Quite often, it is when we fail to do this, and blunder ahead in our impatience, and in our own strength and wisdom, that we make mistakes. As I have quoted many times before:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5,6, KJV

The wisdom found in these verses can be applied to the issue of planned parenthood as well. The last thing that we want to do, is to be swayed by the fearful ideas of carnal, Earthly, godless men, who erroneously think that they alone possess the solutions to the world's problems. This is secular humanism to the core. Fear is the opposite of faith, and the world today is full of many unfounded fears, some of which are intentionally created, or at least magnified beyond measure, for the sole purpose of controlling and manipulating the masses. As more and more people have rejected the Word of the Lord, faith has diminished in our modern world, while fear and mistrust have grown; and this is precisely what Jesus said would happen almost two thousand years ago when He questioned:

"...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8b, KJV

One way in which this fear is manifested, is through the issue of overpopulation. I recall how many years ago, when I was a wayward child of the Lord, I possessed a poster in which the artist depicted his views concerning the future of the world. In this grim picture, the world's inhabitable land is occupied by an unsustainable population. The Earth's natural resources have dwindled down to nothing. In the painting, people are seen desperately clinging to pinnacles above the masses, while others are engaged in hand to hand combat in the overpopulated lowlands, as the sea slowly encroaches upon them. Scattered throughout this mass of humanity are seen obviously-pregnant women, which serve as a not-so-subtle hint, as to the cause of the problem.

I am also reminded of several movies I saw about two decades ago, which also dealt with overpopulation. For example, in the popular sci-fi classic, 'Soylent Green', which starred world-renown actor, Charlton Heston, we are led to believe that the situation is going to deteriorate to such a degree, that humanity will end up placing themselves upon the platter. At that time, due to overpopulation, at least according to the movie, euthanasia will have become an acceptable practice in order to sustain a viable population on the Earth. It is towards the end of the movie, that we discover that those delicious little green tablets referred to as 'Soylent Green', are actually made from the re-processed bodies of those who have patriotically and dutifully undergone euthanasia. Nothing goes to waste!

The movie 'Logan's Run', starring British actor Michael York, also employed a very fiendish, as well as deceptive, form of population control. In this case, upon reaching the age of thirty, the controlled inhabitants of an encapsulated city are obligated to undergo a so-called process of rejuvenation. Our smart protagonist soon discovers that more people are participating in the process, than are actually coming out of it alive. To his horror, he realizes that rather than being rejuvenated, his friends are actually being zapped out of existence by a laser beam; and thus begins their flight to freedom, and the natural world outside of their domed artificial prison.

Finally, in 'ZPG: Zero Population Growth', British actor Oliver Reed and his wife become fugitives in a futuristic society, when they decide to have a child without the approval of the government authorities, who remain anonymous throughout the movie. This movie employs a lot of fear, such as a dark smoggy sky which requires the use of a gas mask when one is out in public, helicopters with bright lights and authoritative voices which boom out orders over megaphones to the offenders, and traitorous friends who become jealous when the couple has their 'illegal' child, while they are forced to be content with robotic dolls which talk and act like the real thing. As in 'Logan's Run', rather than give up their precious child, the couple embarks on a flight to freedom; and the movie ends with them obtaining it far away from the oppressive government.

It is interesting to note that all three of these movies are British productions; a land which obviously has limited

natural resources, due to the fact that the British Isles are really large islands which must rely upon some imports for their survival. This then, is Satan's dark and fearful picture of the future, but it is not what God truly has in store for His children whom He loves. To suggest that the Lord would create this wonderful world, and we His children, and then allow it to deteriorate to such a degree without any form of Divine Intervention, is not only ludicrous, but it manifests a total lack of faith in the love and caring attitude of our Creator. God truly shall intervene, but in His chosen time, and not until man has come to the end of his rope, and learned a few important lessons. While some people may not understand this, to allow a child to learn from his foolish mistakes is a form of parental love. Jesus Christ Himself, explained His Father's loving attitude in the Sermon on the Mount when He said:

"Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7, KJV

It is through mediums such as these movies, that the devil's children slowly mold and manipulate the public psyche, and pressure people, even God's children, into accepting what they refer to as personal responsibility, for their actions. For the foolish children of the world, accepting personal responsibility seems to include taking matters of life and death into their own hands through birth control and abortion. This places Christians in an awkward position. While we wish to be responsible for our actions, including our sexual actions, we do not wish to defy the natural laws ordained by our Creator. Because of this fact, we place ourselves at odds with the children of the world who have chosen to not follow the Divine Guidelines.

So what is the proper attitude of the God-fearing married Christian? In my view, if the Lord blesses us with a certain number of children, then we must also have the faith that if we are earnestly seeking to please Him above all, that He will open the right doors, and provide us with the means to support and raise those children for His glory. As the Apostle Paul also wrote:

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 1 Timothy 5:8, KJV

As children of the King, we are each a part of God's holy Household. We are His sons and daughters. Surely, the Creator of the universe is more than able, and willing, to provide our needs when we are pleasing in His sight, no matter how many children we may have. Please consider the following verses:

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;" Ephesians 2:19, KJV

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:"

Isaiah 59:1, KJV

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalms 37:4, KJV

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19, KJV

As I have testified in other articles, and personally witnessed in my own life, where God guides, He also provides. The Lord is not one to say, 'This is the way; walk ye in it', and then not provide for His children along that way. It is through His provision, that we know that we are in His Will. Of course, the Lord may also test our faith a little, to see if we are still willing to believe and obey, even when things seem contrary to what we expect. However, if there is one thing of which I am certain, it is that we are not to worry about the future. To do so, is totally contrary to the teachings of our Lord who said:

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Matthew 6:34, KJV

While the Lord may sometimes give us glimpses of the future, even our own future, for the most part, as far as the Christian walk is concerned, it is usually a matter of blind faith. We must be willing to sign the dotted line on our blank contract with the Lord, and then allow Him to fill in the details, according to what He knows is best for us, even when it comes to having children. When we begin to try to control our own future, such as when it comes to matters of birth control, we are placing faith in ourselves, instead of in God. In fact, we may be placing our will above God's Will. Instead of stating that children may not be a part of one's future, it is better to say along with Jesus and James, 'Lord, Your Will be done, and not mine', and that takes a lot of faith. Consider the following verses:

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10, KJV

"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt...He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."
Matthew 26:39, 42, KJV

"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second."
Hebrews 10:9, KJV

"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and

do this, or that." James 4:13-15, KJV

This attitude of 'If the Lord will', is found throughout the Bible. Unlike many hardhearted people of our modern era, who do everything possible to try to explain everything rationally, or scientifically, thus keeping God totally out of the picture, the God-fearing Israelites of old attributed all things to the Will of God. Whether it was blessings or curses, such as having children, or being barren, or having good weather or bad, or being victorious over their enemies, or else being defeated by the same, they knew, realized and accepted that all things came from the Hand of God, and that He was the source of all things. God was central to their lives, and all things, good or bad, happened according to His perfect Will. Consider the following examples which deal specifically with the issue of childbearing:

"And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent. And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also? And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old? Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Genesis 18:9-14, KJV

"And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." Judges 13:2-5, KJV

"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1:30-37, KJV

Notice that in two cases, we have women who were barren, and in the third case, we have a young woman who was not even married yet. These were three impossible situations. They knew it, and everyone else knew it as well. Based upon modern scientific reasoning, and our understanding of conception, we can also agree, that given the situation in which each of these women found themselves, they simply could not have become pregnant by normal or acceptable means. Two of them were too old, and one had never had sex before. It required a miracle; it required the Will of God; and it required the Hand of God. Why were these messengers able to proclaim such messages? It was because, in the words of the Angel Gabriel, 'For with God nothing shall be impossible'. These messengers knew that the process of becoming pregnant was not merely the result of the physical act of having sex with a person; it also required the key factor of being God's Will. In the life of the Christian, unless God's Will is present, it simply will not happen; but if it is His Will, then a conception will occur. It is for this reason that the Psalmist was inspired to write:

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." Psalms 139:13-16, KJV

So you see, in God's Mind, you might say that we His children are pre-fabricated. In His Mind, He has already designed us. He knows exactly what we are supposed to look like, even before we have actually been formed in our mother's womb! Based upon these Scriptural facts, these cold-hearted people who argue about when life actually begins, in order to justify their murder of the unborn innocent, are blatant liars and deceivers! This is precisely as we are told it would be in the Endtime, for the Apostle Paul wrote:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

Returning for a moment to the attitude of 'If the Lord will', when Mary was informed of her soon-coming pregnancy, what was her reaction? Did she say to the Angel 'What do you mean?! You can't do that to me God! What will people think?! What will Joseph think?! We aren't even officially married yet! They'll call me a whore and a slut!' Or did Mary get all uptight and think about the soon-coming loss of her personal freedom and say 'I'm sorry, Lord, but I am not ready for this. I am young. I haven't enjoyed life yet. Becoming pregnant would be too much of an inconvenience for me at this time. Maybe later, okay Lord? You understand, don't you Lord?' Or did Mary argue 'Listen Lord. I am a working woman. I am very career-oriented. I have worked very hard to make it this far in life, and I really can't be bothered with becoming pregnant right now.' NO!!! Mary was so yielded to the Lord that she simply said to Gabriel:

"...Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

Luke 1:38, KJV

Simply put, Mary accepted the message from her Angelic Visitor as being the Will of God. She didn't fight against it like a lot of these so-called 'liberated women' do today. She accepted her God-ordained, and God-given role as a mother-to-be. Some people reading this may consider these views to be 'old-fashioned', but they are Scripture-based; They are the Word of God; so if there is any error in thinking, it is on the part of those who would dare to call God a liar, and His inspired Word a lie.

In the second part of this three-part series, we will continue our discussion by taking a look at such topics as becoming one flesh, Pharaoh and his devious plan, sacrifices to Molech, Herod's mass murder, Satan - the destroyer of God's children, modern child sacrifices, Michal's curse, King David's chastisement, 'the pill', forbidden knowledge vasectomy, eunuchs and castration, and marriage and divorce. I trust that you will join me.

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THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART TWO

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One Flesh, God's Plan Before The World Began, Pharaoh And The Hebrews, Sacrifices To Molech, Herod's Crime, Satan - The Destroyer Of God's Children, Child Sacrifice - Ancient And Modern, Michal's Curse, King David's Chastisement, A Blessing Or A Curse?, The Ungodly Pill, Forbidden Knowledge Vasectomy, Eunuchs And Castration, Marriage Vows And Divorce

Based upon the Scriptures I have shared thus far, it is difficult for me to accept that any married Christian would suggest that children might not be a part of their future, unless of course they have received an outright revelation from the Lord, or if perhaps there is something extremely wrong physically with either the woman or the man; but even then, as we have already seen, there are no insurmountable obstacles as far as the Lord is concerned. He is more than capable of overcoming all of them if He so desires. Such a thought as was expressed by the person who wrote to me, simply does not sit well with me; and it honestly makes me wonder if there might not be something amiss in the hearts of those people who say such things. Perhaps what they are really saying is, 'I hope that children are not a part of my future, because I don't want any'. If that is the case, then I am obligated to ask, why then did they even choose to get married in the first place? In quoting from the Book of Genesis, Jesus said:

"But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh."
Mark 10:6-8, KJV

Obviously, being one flesh also includes becoming one flesh through sexual union; and such a union normally results in children sooner or later; that is, if a couple is placing their faith in the Lord, and not in any form of artificial birth control. Personally, I am not aware of any places in the Bible where God's people are instructed to purposely seek out methods to hold back the Lord's blessings through childbirth. The only examples I can think of where such things occurred in the Scriptures, were all selfish, murderous acts. For example, we have the case of selfish Pharaoh instructing the Hebrew midwives to kill the Hebrew newborns, when the king felt threatened by the growing Hebrew population in Egypt:

"But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made

them serve, was with rigour. And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive. And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty."
Exodus 1:12-20, KJV

When this failed to work, the evil Egyptian king then ordered that all Hebrew male newborns be cast into the Nile River. It was because of the faith and obedience of Amram and Jochebed, that Moses' life was spared:

"And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses. And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive."
Exodus 1:21,22, KJV

Many hundreds of years later, after the Lord had blessed the Hebrew children, by freeing them from Egyptian bondage, and making them a powerful nation of over one million strong, these very same people fell into such an utter state of apostasy, that they were actually sacrificing their sons and their daughters on the fiery altars of the false heathen god, Molech, in the Valley of Hinnom, located to the south of Jerusalem. I discuss this in other articles such as in the series 'The Fruits Of Disobedience'. This cold-blooded sacrifice of young children was one of the primary reasons why the Lord sent in King Nebuchadnezzar and his army to chastise the house of Judah. Consider these verses:

"And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle. Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents; They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind: Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter. And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth. And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth

thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof. And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them."

Jeremiah 19:3-9, KJV

"Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon."

1 Kings 11:7, KJV

"And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech."

2 Kings 23:10, KJV

"And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

Jeremiah 32:35, KJV

In the New Testament, many of us are familiar with the fact that, in accordance with Old Testament prophecy, Satan inspired evil, selfish King Herod to destroy the young children of Bethlehem, after he felt threatened upon receiving the news from the three magi, that a new king had been born in Israel. We find the story in the following verses:

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

Matthew 2:16-18, KJV

Of course, we all know that God was one step ahead of Satan; and He had Joseph, Mary and young Jesus escape to Egypt until the death of King Herod, in order that God's Plan of Salvation might be fulfilled, exactly as He had ordained since before the world began, as we see by the following verses:

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," 2 Timothy 1:9, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" Titus 1:2, KJV

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain

from the foundation of the world." Revelation 13:8, KJV

Through the previous examples, it is easy to see that Satan is the destroyer of the Lord's children; and he will continue to be the destroyer of the Lord's children, until the very day that he is cast into the lake burning with fire and brimstone. In fact, we are told that right before the evil systems of man come to an end, Satan will be at his worst insofar as his persecution against the Lord's children is concerned. I discuss the topic of the Great Tribulation in quite a number of my Endtime articles, as well as in 'Civil Disobedience And Christian Persecution'. For the time being, consider the following verses which describe Satan's wrath upon the Lord's children:

"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Revelation 12:9, 12b, KJV

While I have presented some rather extreme examples, it should be clear to you the reader that, under normal circumstances, Satan is the only one who seeks to slay, or else inspires others to slay, the Lord's children; even His unborn children; whether it be through ancient child sacrifices, or through different modern forms of the same; such as through birth control which seeks to prevent the conception from ever occurring, or else through abortion after the Lord's child has already been formed in the womb. If either of these two methods don't work, that Prince of Darkness will trick women into becoming drug addicts, or alcoholics, so that their unborn children face the danger of either being malformed, or addicted to heroin from birth, or perhaps they will suffer from some mental deficiency from a young age. If all else fails, and that child does grow up knowing the ways of the Lord, he may eventually face some form of persecution by antichrist government forces; so Satan never gives up. He is out to win!

In a few rare cases, we do find examples in the Scriptures where the Lord either slew a particular child, or else prevented children from being born, as a direct form of chastisement against a certain individual. One example of this can be found in the Second Book of Samuel, where David's wife, Michal, the daughter of rebellious King Saul, became jealous when David danced nearly naked before the Lord, after the Ark of the Covenant had been returned to Israel. As a result of her jealousy, the Lord struck Michal barren, as we see in the following verses:

"And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart...Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly

uncovereth himself! And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD...Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death."

2 Samuel 6:16, 20-21, 23, KJV

In another clear example, which also involves King David, as a form of severe chastisement, the Lord smote the king's first son, who was born as a result of second degree murder, and a blatant act of lust and adultery with beautiful Bathsheba, the wife of David's faithful general, Uriah the Hittite:

"And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive; but when the child was dead, thou didst rise and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him."

2 Samuel 12:18-24, KJV

While these two examples may shock a few people, as the Lord Himself tells us through the Prophet Moses, He makes alive, and He also kills. He alone is God, and He can do according to His own Will, and none can stand against Him:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."

Deuteronomy 32:39, KJV

As this person continued in his letter to me, he informed me that both he and his wife feel very awkward around children. Because of this, they are unsure of how to act when children are present. He made it clear that it isn't that they don't like children, it is that they just don't possess a desire to have any of their own. He also mentioned that they seem to have more of an affinity with senior citizens. To a certain degree, I can understand how this couple feels. For those of us who do have children, if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that there are indeed times when our children do get on our nerves. Maybe we are simply tired

from work, or perhaps our minds are preoccupied with a certain problem which is occurring in our lives, or maybe we are working on a certain project which demands our utmost concentration, and having noisy children around is the last thing that we need. These are all normal situations which happen to all parents. At such times, we wish our children were already in bed sleeping, or maybe still at school. Even though we may feel this way at times, this does not diminish our love for them by any means.

Raising children is a hard job, and sometimes we do need short breaks from them, no matter how much we love them; however, what this currently childless couple is expressing, goes beyond that; and as I have already stated, it alarms me; particularly because they have only been married for about two years, and I am given the impression that they are a young couple. Their current desires simply do not seem natural to me. A young couple which expresses no desire to have a family, just does not seem to conform to the Word of God. It defeats one of the primary reasons for which most people get married. Children are the heritage of the Lord. They are the ultimate fruit of true love, which itself finds its deepest expression through a fulfilling sexual relationship. Children are a blessing and not a curse. They only turn into a burden when we as parents fail to raise them properly with a fear of the Lord. As we are told in the Book of Proverbs:

"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."
Proverbs 10:1, KJV

"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke." Proverbs 13:1, KJV

"A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother." Proverbs 15:20, KJV

"A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him." Proverbs 17:25, KJV

If this couple's unhealthy attitude is the result of some inward insecurity, then instead of trying to ignore the problem, by simply saying that they will have no children, which in my opinion is a very serious decision to make so early in such a relationship, I feel that they need to confront this problem head-on, discover its source, and deal with it; no matter how uncomfortable it may be for them.

This man then informed me that for a time, his wife was on 'the pill'; however, due to the fact that it made her sick in some way, she apparently stopped. That in itself should be a clear sign to any Christian who is sensitive to God's Spirit, that He does not approve of such things. This is not the first time that I have heard of women becoming sick from taking 'the pill'. It seems to be a fairly common occurrence. As we all know, God Himself has ordained a monthly cycle for women, so that their bodies will have time to produce eggs and be fertile, and then have a time, usually three days to a week, in order to flush their bodies of the same, and to cleanse the uterus, when they are not fertilized. In His

Wisdom, the Lord has timed this process precisely from month to month. As in all things that He does, it is perfect clockwork, just like the rest of the universe.

I know for a fact from talking to women who have taken 'the pill', that this natural, Divinely-Designed cycle is altered and disrupted when those artificial chemicals are introduced into a woman's body. In my opinion, it is not normal; it is not natural; and it is not godly. Not only that, but it is dangerous to tamper with the natural order of things as they were ordained by the Lord; and man is tampering more and more with God's Creation each day, as his knowledge and understanding of scientific principles are increasingly expanded. As I discuss in such articles as 'Science And Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge', some things were not meant for us to understand, and it is only through satanic inspiration, that in these Last Days, man has been educated in some of these things. The Book of Enoch is quite specific about such matters, and the Lord also inspired the Prophet Daniel to write:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4, KJV

Please notice that the above verse does not say that this knowledge will proceed from God. Taken in conjunction with the writings of Enoch, it may be saying the exact opposite. To tamper with the forbidden knowledge, as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden, is utter foolishness; and man today has gone way beyond anything Adam and Eve could ever possibly have done. We have but to look at such things as Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Chernobyl, Three-Mile Island, the effects of nuclear, chemical and biological warfare, ozone depletion, deforestation, oil spills, the extinction of species, acid rain, drug addiction, and inner-city violence, in order to see the fruits of man's scientific achievements; and then we must ask ourselves; does the good truly outweigh the bad, or are people living in a state of self-imposed delusion? In effect, man has signed his own death warrant; and if it weren't for the mercy of God, and the soon-coming intervention of the Lord Himself from Heaven, we would indeed completely destroy ourselves through our own madness and selfishness. In a sense, birth control is a part of this self-destruction, because it is slow genocide.

Being as this man's wife became sick from taking 'the pill', he informed me that about a year ago, they decided to take a more permanent approach to fulfilling their desire to not have any children. While he has not done this as of this writing, because he is not certain that it is God's Will, this man has seriously been considering having a vasectomy performed on him. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the term, it is a simple medical procedure whereby a small portion of the tubes leading from a man's testes, referred to as the vas deferens, is surgically removed, thus prohibiting the flow of sperm from the testes, to the ejaculatory duct in the penis. In looking at the Scriptures, we might say that a vasectomy is a less intrusive form of castration. In the latter case, a man's testicles were completely removed for various reasons. In some cases, it

was because he worked as a harem attendant, or in some other official capacity, in the courts of Eastern or Middle Eastern royalty. The Bible refers to such castrated men as eunuchs. For example, consider the words of the Prophet Isaiah to Judean King Hezekiah, regarding the future of the king's lineage:

"And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

2 Kings 20:16-18, KJV

In other cases, men were castrated and became eunuchs for religious reasons. Jesus Himself spoke of both court eunuchs and religious eunuchs when He said the following in the Gospel of Matthew. In fact, He even seems to be stating that some men are born naturally castrated, which indicates that this rarity is nothing new:

"For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

Matthew 19:12, KJV

Other than the above verse, the only place that we find a eunuch specifically mentioned in the New Testament, is in the Book of Acts, where the Apostle Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch who served under Queen Candace of Ethiopia. From some of the material I have read, it is believed by some scholars that it was this very man who was primarily responsible for the eventual Christianization of Ethiopia. Following are some of the key verses from that story:

"And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship...And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?...And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?...And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing." Ac 8:27, 34, 36, 38-39, KJV

Due to the similarities between the ancient practice of castration and the modern vasectomy, as well as our Lord's own words regarding eunuchs, some people might be tempted to assume then that a vasectomy is an acceptable procedure in God's sight under any conditions; however, it is my belief at this time that this would be an erroneous conclusion. As I have stated many times before in my writings, we must all

be Spirit-led in our interpretation of the Bible, and prayerfully and carefully compare Scripture with Scripture. In so doing, we safeguard ourselves from falling into doctrinal error and delusion. In determining the validity of a vasectomy, we need to look at several different factors. Primary among these are who is doing it, when are they doing it, and under what conditions are they doing it. Based upon the verses we have already looked at, as well as others which I will share in a moment, I do not believe that the Lord condones a married man, who is a servant of the Lord, having a vasectomy performed upon His person. Allow me to share with you my reasons for saying this.

We all know that God is not the author of confusion. He does not contradict Himself. He is not going to confuse us by saying one thing in the Scriptures, and then turn around and say something entirely difference in another place. It has been my experience, that when there is any confusion in my mind regarding a certain issue, it isn't because the Bible contradicts itself as many modern antichrists would have us to believe, but rather it is due to a limitation in my personal understanding of the same.

Having said the above, I do not believe that the Lord is going to inspire His writers to say 'be fruitful and multiply' to the first couple, 'children are an heritage of the Lord', that 'the fruit of the womb is His reward', and that 'they twain shall be one flesh', and then turn around and say that it is okay for a married man to suddenly say to his wife, 'Well, sorry honey, but I have just decided to dedicate myself to the Lord. I know that you were thinking about having a few children, but that is now out of the question. I will no longer have the time for them, because I will be too busy working for the Lord. I have decided to become a eunuch'. I think this kind of an attitude is really selfish, unfair to the wife who was expecting a life of motherhood filled with children, and totally unscriptural. When a man and a woman make a vow to each other to become one flesh through marriage, I believe that the Lord expects them to do their best in order to keep that vow for life. Perhaps that may sound a bit old-fashioned to some of my younger readers, but as we have already seen, this is Scripturally-sound doctrine. As Jesus said in the Gospel of Mark, 'What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder'.

Yes; I know. I can just about see some of you married folks, or some of you formerly married folks, or maybe some of you who have been married on more than one occasion, cringing at my words. Let's be honest with ourselves; many of us are guilty of these things; myself included. It just seems that some of us, even those of us who profess to be Christians, no longer possess the unselfish love and patience that is required in order to sustain a longterm relationship. We are all adulterers according to the Biblical definition of the word. As Jesus also said regarding divorce:

"...Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so." Matthew 19:8b, KJV

The only thing that we can all do, is to cling to the mercy of God found through the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, because we have all sinned in one way or another. None of us are in a position to exalt ourselves above others. In the Old Testament, we find verses such as the following regarding marriage vows and other types of promises:

"If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth. If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth; And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand. But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her. And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul; And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her. But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her. And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath; And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand. But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her. Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void. But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them. But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity. These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house." Numbers 30:2-16, KJV

"When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth." Deuteronomy 23:21-23, KJV

In the final part of this series, we shall take a further look at becoming eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom of God,

sexual continence, pre-eminence of the husband, Roman Catholicism and the sins of Rome, mutual sexual abstention, sexual promiscuity, Godly contentment, spiritual priorities selfishness or faith, and advice on choosing the right marriage partner. I trust that you will join me.

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THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB : PART THREE

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Eunuchs For Kingdom Of God, Nazarites, Sexual Continence, Pre-Eminence Of The Husband, Forbidding To Marry, Roman Catholicism And The Sins Of Rome, Mutual Sexual Abstention, Sexual Promiscuity, Godly Contentment, Spiritual Priorities Selfishness Or Faith, All Things Or Some Things, Tips On Choosing The Right Marriage Partner, My Final Conclusions

The point I wish to make from sharing all of the previous Scriptures, is that when the Lord spoke of men becoming eunuchs for the sake of the Kingdom of God, I tend to believe that He may primarily have been referring to men who chose to forsake sexual pleasures with women, and thus marriage, before they actually became joined to a wife, and not afterwards. There is a big difference in timing here, and this understanding seems to be more in line with the rest of the Scriptures, and does not contradict them. Whether Jesus was actually referring to a man physically becoming a eunuch through the process of castration, or whether He was merely implying spiritual castration through abstention from sexual relationships with women, I honestly cannot say. The Greek lexicon states that the Greek word used here, 'eunouchos', can apply to both. As both Jesus and the Apostle Paul tell us, the primary reason that certain men choose to become eunuchs, is so that they will not become distracted by their sexual desire towards women, which might ultimately result in marriage, and lead to the responsibility of raising children, etc. In this way, they can better dedicate themselves to the Lord's service. In his first Epistle to the Corinthians, Paul made this quite clear when he wrote the following. Notice his reference to 'trouble in the flesh' and 'without distraction':

"But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you...But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife. There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband. And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction."
1 Corinthians 7:28, 32-35, KJV

In short, it is difficult to seek first the Kingdom of God, as Jesus commanded us to do in the Sermon on the Mount, when we have family responsibilities which take up our time and our attention, and which drain us of our strength; and this

of course includes satisfying our spouse, as well as our own flesh, sexually. In this regard, I suppose that I can be considered a spiritual eunuch; being as since about nine years ago, I too determined that I could no longer afford to have a sexual relationship in my life. In fact, since about seven years ago, I have refrained from having any personal relationship with a woman. In my mind, time is too short, and I simply have too much to accomplish for the Lord. I now strive to keep His Word, and His Work, as the primary focus in my life. In a sense, as I told a dear friend recently, you might say that I have also taken the vow of a Nazarite since this ministry began. Paul may have had the vow of a Nazarite in mind when he wrote the previous lines, because this vow can apply to both men and women who dedicate themselves to the Lord. For a better understanding of the vow of a Nazarite, please read Numbers chapter six.

While some of you may be a bit surprised to discover this particular aspect regarding my personal life, the decision to keep myself from women for the remainder of my life is nevertheless a disciplinary choice I have freely made in order to further the Kingdom of God. It is definitely not for all men, and not all men can exercise such self-control. The Apostles Peter and Paul both spoke of this self-control of one's emotions and sexual drive, or libido, in the following verses. Here it is referred to as 'temperance':

"And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." 1 Corinthians 9:25, KJV

"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;" Titus 1:7-8, KJV

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;" 2 Peter 1:5,6, KJV

In the previous sets of verses, the words 'temperate' and 'temperance' are derived from three related Greek words. The first of these is the word 'egkrateuomai'. Pronounced eng-krat-yoo'-om-ahee, the Greek lexicon defines it as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

- 1) to be self-controlled, continent
- 1a) to exhibit self-government, conduct, one's self temperately
- 1b) in a figure drawn from athletes, who in preparing themselves for the games abstained from unwholesome food, wine, and sexual indulgence

----- End Quote -----

The second word used in the Greek manuscripts, is the word 'egkrates'. Pronounced eng-krat-ace', its meaning is very

similar to the previous word. Notice again the mention of sexual continence:

----- Begin Quote -----

- 1) strong, robust
- 2) having power over, possessed of (a thing)
- 3) mastering, controlling, curbing, restraining
- 3a) controlling one's self, temperate, continent

----- End Quote -----

The final word used in the original Greek texts, is the word 'egkrateia'. Pronounced eng-krat'-i-ah, we again see that it means the control of one's emotions, particularly one's sensual, or sexual, passions and appetite:

----- Begin Quote -----

- 1) self-control (the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites)

----- End Quote -----

It is interesting to note Paul's reference to sports in the previous verse taken from his letter to the Corinthians. In particular, with his use of the phrase 'every man that striveth for the mastery', he is referring to how athletes must abstain from sex and unhealthy foods in order to build up their physical strength, and thus win the race; what he refers to as 'a corruptible crown'. In the verses which follow that one, he then informs us how he too is running a spiritual race; and as such, he must also exercise bodily and emotional control in order that he might win the race, and obtain the incorruptible Crown of Life, and not be ashamed at our Lord's Coming:

"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
1 Corinthians 9:26,27, KJV

The Apostle Paul apparently made the very same choice to become a eunuch, if not physically, at least in a spiritual sense. In addition to the previous verses, in his in-depth dissertation on marriage and sexual relationships, which comes only two chapters before the previous verses, he also wrote the following lines. It is obvious that these three chapters are one continual thought on the correct sexual behaviour of the Christian family. In fact, it is because of the serious sexual problem which occurred at Corinth, which he discusses in chapter five, that he was motivated to write this Epistle to begin with:

"For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn." 1 Corinthians 7:7-9, KJV

Obviously, Paul is saying that he was not married. Whether he was a widower, or a single person since birth, I cannot say; however, from the time he began to serve the Lord, it is evident that he was a self-imposed eunuch. Surely this made his work for the Lord easier as he travelled throughout Asia and southern Europe. Some modern antichrists have interpreted Paul's marital status as meaning that he was a woman-hater. This is the furthest thing from the truth. In this chapter, as well as in all of his other writings, Paul speaks with equal respect towards both men and women; however, he does make clear that ultimately, the man does have pre-eminence over the woman in regards to spiritual matters; such as in these verses:

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God...For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man." 1 Corinthians 11:3, 8-9, KJV

Sadly, some religious organizations today, such as certain Catholic institutions, have gone to the extreme with taking the vow of a eunuch; that is, a vow of chastity. They have placed their clerics under the heavy weight of the law, just like the Jewish Scribes and Pharisees of old, and it has resulted in some very serious problems within the Catholic Church. This includes cases of homosexuality, lesbianism, and pedophilia. The Apostle Paul apparently foresaw these times, because in his first Epistle to Timothy, he wrote the following lines. Notice his explicit mention of 'forbidding to marry':

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."
1 Timothy 4:1-3, KJV

Allow me to point out to you that Paul is writing to the Christian brethren in Rome; thus, when he talks about some departing from the faith, he is referring to those who depart from the Christian faith, yet who still claim to be a part of the same. With that in mind, it is obvious that Paul is associating 'forbidding to marry' with 'departing from the faith', 'seducing spirits' and 'doctrines of devils'. In short, he is saying that the modern Endtime doctrines of 'forbidding to marry', and 'abstaining from meats', is not of God. They are false doctrines inspired by Satan himself.

Surely this exposes some of the wayard ideas espoused by Roman Catholic theology, which claims to be the 'mother church', and the 'one true religion' as I am often told by Catholics. I believe that part of the problem is that some of these men and women who decide to become priests, monks, nuns and the like, do so at an early age before they have really thought out their decision thoroughly through prayer and a study of the Word. Perhaps some of them even feel

forced to make such a decision due to the pressure and expectations placed upon them by their families or by other people within the Catholic world, such as their spiritual elders. Instead of counting the cost, as Jesus advises us to do in Luke chapter fourteen, they make a hasty decision to accept a vow which they later realize they are no longer able to keep.

Sadly, by then, for some of them it is too late. They are already trapped within the Roman Catholic system; and rather than break their vow of chastity, in order to fulfill the sexual desires of their bodies through a clean, legitimate relationship, they choose to not risk disappointing their family and peers, and embarrassing themselves as well, and begin to secretly engage in unhealthy sexual practices as we have seen exposed by the mass media. Paul said that it is better to marry than to burn, yet ironically, just as he exposed the sexual sins of ancient Rome in the first chapter of his Epistle to the Romans, we find that today, the Roman Catholic Church, which also finds its origin in Rome, is plagued by the very same sins:

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." Romans 1:26,27, KJV

Allow me to reiterate the fact that making the important decision to become a eunuch for the sake of the Kingdom of God, before one enters a marriage relationship, seems to be what is being implied by our Lord's Words, as well as by the Apostle Paul. Once a certain person has entered a marriage relationship, and as long as they remain in that state, it does not seem Scripturally-sound to me to suddenly declare oneself a eunuch, and forego all sexual pleasure with his or her spouse. Again, the Apostle Paul was very clear regarding this matter when he wrote the following counsel:

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."
1 Corinthians 7:1-5, KJV

What does Paul mean by the terms 'render...due benevolence', and 'defraud ye not'? Quite simply, he is referring to being kind to each other by meeting each other's sexual needs, and not cheating each other out of what is one's sexual right through marriage. That is the gist of these five verses. Paul is saying that rather than burn with sexual lust, and become involved in fornication, it is better to marry; and

once two people are married, they should do their best to meet each other's sexual expectations unselfishly. He goes on to say that the only time when a man and a wife should withhold themselves from each other, is when it is by mutual consent; and even then, it should only be for a very good reason, and for a set time period; such as to give oneself to prayer and fasting. I will expand on this thought a bit, and suggest that it may also include when a woman is undergoing menstruation, or perhaps when both parties are extremely busy for the Lord, or perhaps when one party is very sick, or maybe when your spouse is extremely tired. To refrain from intercourse at such times is an act of unselfish love in my view.

However, when your partner is constantly saying "Oh, honey; not tonight; I'm too tired", watch out! Paul clearly says that there must be a time when you come back into sexual union at a mutually-agreed-upon time; otherwise, you are asking for trouble! A married person can only go so long without sex. They become used to having it; and if you refuse to meet their needs because of your own selfishness, then Satan will come along and tempt them to look for someone else who may be more than happy to meet their sexual needs. I have heard of this happening in many relationships, even in Christian relationships; so if you don't want to lose your husband or wife to another man, or to another woman, you better be wise and do as the Lord commands you to do, by keeping your mate sexually happy! If this happens, you have no one to blame but yourself!

This leads us to our next point. In his letter to me, my friend stated that in trying to justify his decision of having a vasectomy, the only thing in the Scriptures which he could think of which might validate his choice, was where we are told in his words 'that if a man can go without a wife, then it is good to do so'. Being as he was unable to provide me with a Scriptural reference, I can only assume that he may be referring to some of the verses I shared earlier. If that is the case, then it is obvious to me that he has misunderstood what the Apostle means. In this same chapter, Paul also writes:

"Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife."
1 Corinthians 7:27, KJV

In other words, in whatever state you happen to find yourself, whether you are married, or divorced, that is, 'loosed from a wife', remain in that state, and serve the Lord to the best of your ability. Although he wasn't specifically referring to his marital status, in his Epistle to the Philippians, Paul also made a similar statement which shows that we must accept all things as coming from the Lord, and to be happy in whatever state we find ourselves. In that letter he wrote:

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."
Philippians 4:11, KJV

As we have just seen, once a person is married, they have an

obligation before the Lord to meet their partner's sexual needs. When Paul talks about going without a wife, as my friend put it, he is not talking about getting married, and then not fulfilling one's sexual obligations; and there is no indication that he is talking about getting castrated, or having a vasectomy performed upon oneself. Paul is talking about not getting married to begin with. He is talking about becoming a eunuch for the Kingdom of God as he apparently was. He is not talking about resorting to divorce, sexual abstinence, or an operation to make one sterile, in order to back out of responsibilities to which one has already committed oneself through marriage. Now, it is possible that my friend might be a little confused by the following verses:

"But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."
1 Corinthians 7:29-31, KJV

It is right after these verses, that Paul explains how being married can be a distraction for the Lord's service, as we saw earlier in this series. Taken in their proper context then, what Paul really appears to be saying by the above verses, is that, because they believed that the day of the Lord's Coming was soon at hand, he was admonishing the brethren to keep busy in the Lord's service, realizing that their marital status, and their Earthly status in general, would soon change. In other words, he was telling them to keep their priorities straight. So again, for the sake of emphasis, for a man to go without a wife does not mean that a man gets married, and then abstains from sex with his wife; it means that he goes without a wife by never getting married to begin with. To do otherwise would go against everything we have thus seen regarding 'they twain shall become one flesh'.

Before concluding his letter to me, this young man does honestly admit that there is a degree of selfishness involved which has influenced their decision to not have any children. I must concur. I feel that the fact that he would even tell me this, is a clear indication that the Lord has already begun working in his heart. There is definitely some selfishness in this decision; and I can't help but wonder if this couple hasn't been affected to some degree by the same selfish spirit which is prevalent in many worldly marriages. This is something they will definitely have to pray about.

My friend also states that while he feels that he can trust the Lord regarding this matter, his wife has expressed to him that she does not have the same faith. In my view, this is a major problem. Because she cannot trust the Lord as she should, believing that He knows what is best for them, she wants to take matters into her own hands, and thus control her own future. I have already discussed this topic in-depth earlier in this series, so I will not belabour the point. What it really comes down to is one simple verse which I have shared with my readers many times before. Allow me to

share this wonderful verse with you once again:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28, KJV

Does Paul say that 'some things work together for good'? No; he says 'all things work together for good'. The primary issue here seems to be how much is this couple willing to really submit themselves to the Lord on the Altar of His sacrifice, by yielding both their spirits and their bodies to Him fully? How much are they really willing to cast themselves into His Hands completely, trusting and knowing, that as their Heavenly Father who loves them dearly, He will not do anything, or allow anything to happen to them, which is not a part of His Plan, and which will ultimately be to their own benefit; even if they don't understand it at the time? In the Book of Isaiah, the Prophet wrote:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8,9, KJV

Does this couple want to do things His way, or their own way? Do they want to do His Will or their will? This man concludes his letter by stating that 'it seems that God leaves marriage up to us'. My answer is yes, for the most part, God does leave the issue of marriage up to us. As I state in the article 'Free Will And Personal Choice', the Lord does leave it up to us to make the right decisions in our own lives; however, allow me to add once again that we must strive to make certain that our decisions are in accordance with His Will, particularly the major ones. I can tell you all about what happens when you make the wrong decisions; particularly those which deal with marriage; but I will spare you. Quite often, it is through making the wrong decisions, that we grow in wisdom, as well as in our submissiveness to the Lord. After one has made enough serious blunders in his life, he begins to realize that maybe 'Father Knows Best'!

If there is any advice that I would personally offer to a Christian brother or sister who is contemplating marriage, aside from the old standby of 'make sure you really love them', it would have to be, make sure they are a God-fearing Christian. If you fail to follow this advice, someday, you may live to regret it; particularly after children begin to come along, and you want to raise them in the fear and knowledge of the Lord, while your spouse opposes this. As the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"
2 Corinthians 6:14, KJV

When the Lord told the Israelites of the Old Testament not to marry the heathen, it was for a very good reason. He knew exactly what would happen if they did. Not only would it result in genetic corruption, but more importantly, it would

result in spiritual corruption and apostasy. Despite His warnings, as I explain in such articles as the series 'The Fruits Of Disobedience', those foolish Israelites failed to heed the Lord's warnings, and they paid a dear price for their disobedience. In like manner, if you, as a potential husband or wife to-be, choose a partner who has openly admitted that they do not share your Christian faith, and that they have no intention of ever sharing your Christian faith, then I don't care how much you feel you are in love with them, or how hot sexually you are for them, you better drop them like a hot potato, or else they might just end up making your life miserable, and as hot as hell!

The Apostle Paul also had to deal with this problem; however, back then, the situation was a little different. You see, the Christian faith was young; and the word was just beginning to get around about Jesus Christ. Because of this fact, when many people came to Christ, they were already married; and in some cases, the other spouse had no interest in becoming a part of the new movement. It was under these conditions that Paul wrote the following; again, to those troublesome immoral Corinthians:

"But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife? But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches." 1 Corinthians 7:12-17, KJV

Let me emphasize again, that Paul is giving advice to people who are already married when they come to know Christ. You will also note that he is telling his readers that this is not 'Thus saith the Lord'. In other words, Paul is offering his personal opinion regarding such matters. Furthermore, he is not saying to go out and marry a heathen, with the hope that maybe later you can win them to Christ. While that is possible, as Paul even states above, that is not what he is advocating here. In fact, as I point out in other articles, after the Israelites returned to Jerusalem following the Seventy Years of Captivity in Babylon, they brought many heathen wives with them. These wives had seriously polluted their faith, as well as their genetic heritage. During a great moment of repentance, notice what happened under the leadership of such men as Ezra and Nehemiah:

"And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to

the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law...And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do." Ezra 10:2-3, 10-12, KJV

Do you see what these people did? They resolutely made the decision to align their will with God's Will. They put God's Will above their own. It is easy to imagine that some of these people were really in love with their wives, yet pleasing the Lord had to come first in their lives. This very same principle applies to the life of the Christian today. Whether we are discussing marriage, or childbirth, or any other issue, God's Will must take supremacy in our lives. To reiterate then, yes, as with many other things in this life, God does allow us to make our own choices when it comes to marriage; but if we are wise, and if we truly love Him, we will do our best to try to find a mate who is God-fearing, and who will be pleasing in His sight. While this decision-making applies to marriage, as of this current time, I have not found anything in the Scriptures which shows that God has placed it in our hands, to decide whether or not to have children. Nowhere have I found any kind of instructions which give us this authority. The Scriptures plainly state that children are a blessing and 'an heritage of the Lord', and nowhere are we told to prohibit, or to try to control their conception or birth.

As a final note, let me say that I cannot decide God's Will for anyone. All I can do is share the Scriptures with you, and offer what I believe are the general rules of conduct for God's worldwide family. I cannot have faith for you. You must have faith for yourself, and operate accordingly. As Paul wrote, you must be fully persuaded in your own mind regarding the Will of God for your life, because you alone will be held accountable for your actions in this life:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Romans 14:5, KJV

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10, KJV

Are you doing good things in your body as Paul states; or are you going against the Lord's ordained laws regarding childbirth? For those of you who feel a little uneasy around children, or who worry that you might not make good parents, let me just say this: Give God a chance to work. Let go of Satan's fears, and grab on to faith, because as Paul also wrote:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a

rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
Hebrews 11:6, KJV

If you accept His Will by faith, you won't be disappointed. If He chooses to reward you with a pregnancy, praise God; and just remember, 'the fruit of the womb is His reward'. Believe me; once that new creation begins to form in your womb, God is going to begin to work on your heart. As each day, week and month passes, a bond is going to begin to form between you and that child; and once that child is born, you are going to fall in love with it, and your natural God-given parental instincts will kick in. You might even feel a little ashamed and ask yourself, 'How could I ever not have wanted this? What was I thinking?' That child will then reward you by bringing many moments of joy into your life. As he or she grows up knowing the Lord, you will feel a certain satisfaction in your heart; and someday, you will be able to say 'Here Lord; you made me a steward over this child, and this is what I have done with her'. So again, please step out by faith and give God a chance to work, won't you?

If you are interesting in reading more regarding family issues such as children, abortion, birth control, promiscuity, etc., allow me to encourage you to read such articles as 'Abortion, Birth Control And Promiscuity', as well as 'Plight Of The Children'. I pray that this series has been informative and a blessing in your life.

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