

Infertility, Reproductive Technology and Adoption

chapter 30

I. Infertility

A. The inability of a couple to conceive and bear children due to lack of normal function either in the man's or woman's reproductive system.

B. Infertility in the Bible.

1. In the Old Testament, infertility was a problem since early in history.

a. Sarai was unable to bear children to Abraham (Gen. 11:30)

b. Rachael, Jacob's wife was unable to bear children for a long time (Gen. 29:31).

c. Manoah, Sampson's wife (Judges 13:2)

d. Hannah, mother of Samuel (1 Samuel 1:2-18)

2. New testament:

a. Elizabeth (Luke 1:7).

C. Infertility was something desired to be overcome in the Bible. It follows that infertility should be desired and sought to overcome today. Infertility is a result of the fall of man in Genesis—a result of original sin. It was not a part of God's good creation He originally made.

D. A feeling of grief in childlessness.

1. In all the above examples of barrenness, God had and showed great compassion for infertility.

E. Erroneous conclusions:

1. "We can't get pregnant so God is disciplining us due to our sin".

a. The example of Zechariah and Elizabeth shows that infertility can happen to "righteous" people.

b. God uses difficult trials to develop spiritually mature believers.

II. Three moral principles to consider in relation to reproductive technology.

A. Modern medicine is in general morally good.

B. We should treat the unborn child as a human person from the moment of conception.

- C. God intends that a child should be conceived by and born to a man and woman who are married to each other.

III. Some modern reproductive technologies are morally accepted.

- A. AIH Artificial insemination by husband.
- B. IVF without destruction of embryos.
- C. Embryo adoption.
- D. Prefertilization genetic screening for genetic diseases.

IV. Other modern reproductive technologies are morally unacceptable.

- A. IVF with selective reduction
- B. Artificial Insemination by a donor (AID).
- C. Surrogate motherhood.
- D. Cloning