

God Values Life



BY CHRISTOPHER ESGET

Birth control and abortion: Aren't these simply Roman Catholic concerns? You might be surprised to learn that not too many decades ago, Lutherans and virtually all Protestants were vigorously opposed to both — mostly because the two had been viewed as one and the same in centuries past.

Then over the last 50 years, as a result of the sexual revolution, society's worldview began to change. Suddenly, it became possible to contravene the normal functioning of our bodies. Many began to take control of birth so as to deny it completely. As a result, society's view of sex has largely been reduced merely to physical pleasure disconnected from what God has attached it to: procreation.

As Lutherans, however, we look to the Bible to learn what God's will is for us. While there's only one reference to contraception (Gen. 38:6–10), it meets with God's judgment. Far more important, however, is what Scripture says positively concerning human sexuality's meaning and purpose. To our first parents, God gave the blessing, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22). He made us for this purpose, thus instituting marriage as the foundation of all human society. The blessing was repeated to Noah after the flood, after which He gave a warning against murder. From this we see what God values: life. He is the Creator, and in His blessing of marriage, He calls us to participate in the ongoing work of creation through procreation.

Continuing through the Scriptures, we find — at notable points in the lives of our fathers and mothers in the faith — the same thought is repeated: Children come as a result of God's blessing. They are a "heritage from the Lord, the fruit



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of the womb a reward" (Ps. 127:3). This was not only the understanding in the beginning, when the human race was young and people were few, but even in the last book of the Old Testament — the Book of Malachi — the Lord says He loves marriage because He is seeking "godly offspring" (Mal. 2:15).

Many of our pious mothers in the faith (Sarah, Rebekah, Hannah, Elizabeth) were barren, causing them to cry out to God. Yet, the Lord heard and answered their prayers with children who carried on the praise of God to the next generation.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri

Synod has been and continues to be strongly pro-life on the matter of abortion. But the Scriptures tell us that God is pro-life on a much larger scale: He blesses marriage, opens wombs and desires offspring. Truly He does all things well!

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