



Elder Council's Statement on Surrogacy

November 16, 2016

"The elders believe that most forms of surrogacy are inconsistent with biblical commands and principles. In the case of "rescue surrogacy" (an arrangement whereby a surrogate mother carries a frozen IVF-created embryo that is then adopted by another couple) the saving of a human life may mitigate some of our biblical concerns. Our belief is rooted in our concern for the sanctity of human life and biblical marriage. It is also rooted in our desire to ensure justice for the surrogate mother and the child and to recognize God's sovereignty and goodness. Since this process is complex and has strong moral implications, we urge any member considering any form of surrogacy to seek counsel from our church leaders."

The following tool seeks to further develop our position.

TWO FORMS OF SURROGACY

TRADITIONAL SURROGACY:

A surrogate mother's egg is combined with donor sperm (sometimes the adoptive father, sometimes a random donor).

GESTATIONAL SURROGACY:

Surrogate is not genetically related to baby since IVF is utilized. Sometimes the gametes are from the adoptive mother and father, other times they are random donors.

Rescue-surrogacy occurs when an unused embryo (from IVF) is carried by a surrogate before being adopted. This embryo would otherwise remain frozen or be destroyed.

POTENTIAL PRINCIPAL CONCERNS WITH SURROGACY

CONCERNS RELATED TO SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE:

Will the surrogacy end human life or unnecessarily bring risk or harm to a human life?

CONCERNS RELATED TO THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE:

Will the surrogacy contradict God's design for procreation in the context of a one-man/one-woman marriage covenant?

CONCERNS RELATED TO THE SURROGATE:

Is the surrogate in anyway being treated unjustly through this process?

CONCERNS RELATED TO THE CHILD: Is the baby being treated as a commercial product or an image bearer, a gift from the LORD?

POTENTIAL SPECIFIC CONCERNS WITH SURROGACY

EMBRYO IMPLANTATION: Have all the embryos been implanted? If not, then the remaining are left in suspended state until their death (10 yrs.).

EMBRYO REDUCTION: If all embryos are implanted will less viable embryos be aborted to give more viable embryos better survival rate?

"THIRD PARTY INTRODUCTION": If third party gametes are introduced there is an intrusion of one-flesh union God designed for procreation.

COMERICAL VS. ALTRUSTIC? If surrogate is reimbursed for anything beyond medical cost the baby becomes product.

JUSTICE FOR SURROGATE: Is surrogate informed of what will occur? Are her rights attended to?

PURPOSEFUL SURROGACY: If a couple conceives a baby for the purpose of giving it to another couple that is morally questionable.

HEART MOTIVES: Are adoptive parents viewing child as means to a questionable end?

WHO ARE MY PARENTS? Future psychological effects on child must be considered.