**Genesis 1:27-28 Part 1**

**I. ...Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth…**

What should Christians think about birth control?

**II. Christians should first distinguish between birth control and conception control**

A. Birth Control

 The attempt to stop a child *in utero*from being delivered alive

B. Conception Control

 The attempt to stop conception from taking place

**III. Birth Control as described above is contrary to the will of God (i.e. ‘sinful’), and deserving of punishment**

Ex. 21:22-25 …If men strive and hurt a woman with child…

If *unintended* harm to an unborn child is punishable, then *intended* harm, such as birth control, is also punishable.

This accords with the fact that God considers the inhabitant of the womb a baby (Luke 1:41, 44).

**IV. A Biblical view of Contraception Control requires:**

A. A Biblical View of Children

 The Bible teaches that children are a blessed gift from God

Psalm 127:3-5 – Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord. The fruit of the womb is his reward…like arrows…blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them…

Psalm 128:3 - Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

Deut. 28:4, 11 …the Lord will grant you plenty of goods in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land… (also Deut. 30:9)

Ruth 4:15 …better to you than seven sons…

I Chron. 25:4-5 Of Heman: the sons of Heman: Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, and Mahazioth: All these were the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters.

I Chron. 26:4-5 …moreover, the sons of Obed-Edom were Shemaiah the first…Peulthai the eighth, for God blessed him.

Job 1:1-3 …there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters…

Job 42:12-13 …so the Lord blessed the latter end of Job…he had also seven sons and three daughters…

Prov. 14:28 - In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.

 *The Bible presents the gift of children as a categorical good.*

The only exception to this clear teaching of Scripture is:

Prov. 17:21 - He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

 Critiques of the Biblical view of children; Responses to critiques

Critique – A person can view children as a blessed gift, but not desire to receive that gift at all times, or in all places.

Response – To say that “I do not want God’s blessed gift right now” is to say that the gift of a child at the present time would be something other than blessed.

Critique – The Bible holds marriage out as a good thing (Prov. 18:22), yet also says that there is a time when it is prudent not to pursue marriage (I Cor. 7:27). Can it then be inferred that children can be seen as a blessed gift while still understanding that circumstances exist where it would be prudent to avoid having children?

Response – Only God gets to declare exceptions to His rules. Whereas God does identify circumstances in which avoiding marriage would be a good thing (I Cor. 7:27; Jer. 16:2), there is no such teaching regarding the blessing of the gift of children.

Note, the exception in I Cor. 7 is in light of some circumstance unique to the Corinthians (I Cor. 7:26 “the present distress”).

 C. A Biblical View of Trials

 D. A Biblical View of The Sovereignty of God