Family Planning

May Christians Use Birth Control?
22 Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Romans 14
Preface

- We love our children and larger than average families (4.0 vs 1.4).

- We celebrate conceptions, births, growth, school, jobs, marriages.

- We have seen sincere Christians fight or reject us over this topic.

- We are not denying them their liberty, but they want to deny ours.

- We love scripture, and we use studies like this to exalt God’s word.

- Any intensity or defensiveness is war against vehement opponents.
Family Planning – Duggar Style

Jim Bob (41) and Michelle (40) and 17 children (2007)
Family Planning – Duggar Style

Jim Bob (43) and Michelle (42) and 18 children (2009)
Family Planning – Elijah Style
Family Planning – Anna Style
Family Planning – Paul Style
Forget abortion. No Bible Christian would consider it. We reject anything that is clearly abortive and avoidable. But birth control in general is a hot topic that divides many Christians. Some say women should conceive as many children as possible. Others consider such a position to be foolish. What does the Bible say? Can the Bible settle this issue? Can Christians agree? Should they agree? Is there any room to disagree? How will we agree? Read on.
What Is Family Planning?

• Using birth control for timing and number of children in a family.

• It is being prudent to please God in light of His word and our world.

• It avoids fatalistic thinking that rejects plans as faithless rebellion.

• It is the choice to emphasize quality over quantity in our children.

• It is our holy reaction against Rome’s abominable mommy idolatry.

• It is our desire to emphasize the kingdom of God over family trees.
Definitions

- **FPBC** = family planning by birth control for number and/or timing.
- **Full quiver (FQ)** = against birth control for as many as possible.
- **Vision Forum (VF)** = a para-church org promoting full quiver ideas.
The Controversy

• Some say that women should conceive as many as possible.

• Some say that any family planning is sinful modern selfishness.

• Some say that any family planning is resisting God’s sovereignty.

• Others say no planning is foolish, imprudent, and presumptive.

• Others say God expects us to be wise and use available means.

• Others say God gives every couple Christian liberty in such things.
Similar Heresies

- **Teetotalers** reject the Bible about wine and demand wild extremes.
- Mennonites and JW’s **will not swear** due to ignorance of scripture.
- **Sabbatarians** obsess over their sacred cow from Moses’ religion.
- George Malkmus teaches a heretical **Hallelujah Diet** from Genesis.
- Forbidding **women to work outside the home** is another extreme.
- Requiring **homeschooling** over public or private is another extreme.
How to Answer Such Hot Topics?

• God’s will is all that matters on this or any other issue.

• God’s will is known by revelation, not by rationalization.

• God’s will is followed by faith, not by personal feelings.

• Scripture has internal rules of hermeneutics to follow.

• Scripture has principles of Christian ethics to follow.

• Scripture has rules of conduct that also have a role.
The Inconsistencies

• Only the Duggars seem to be consistent with their choice.

• FQ types are often young, old, sterile, few kids, or untrained kids.

• Once a person has reached full maturity at 50, he knows better.

• An average FQ woman at 50 should have at least 20 children.

• They use various forms of birth control with or without knowing.

• Like all heresies, they are very partial in the word of God (Mal 2:9).
Our Position

• Any birth control not causing abortions is Christian liberty.

• Contraceptive methods are not the issue here whatsoever.

• Abortifacients are condemned by scripture’s view of life.

• We do not command or require FPBC. It is a personal liberty.

• We do not condemn or prohibit FPBC. It is a personal liberty.

• We do not allow any doubtful disputations about it (Rom 14:1).
Christian Liberty (1)

- Let us repeat loudly – FPBC is strictly a Christian liberty.
- The Bible does not require or prohibit marriage or childbirth.
- Therefore, marriage or childbirth are both Christian liberties.
- We do not command or condemn FPBC. It is marital choice.
- Jesus and Paul made it your liberty (Matt 19:10-12; I Cor 7:6-9,25-40).
- Anti-FPBC presume God will provide; we won’t interfere by helping.
We do not allow any doubtful disputations about it (Rom 14:1).

We follow any applicable Bible rules of Christian liberty. See links.

All we ask our opponents is to allow churches and couples liberty.

Would our opponents exclude a good couple for using FPBC?

If they would, then they mark FPBC as serious sin against God.

If they would not, then they are hypocritical for calling it a sin.
#1: God Has Not Required Children

- God only required Adam and Noah’s families to multiply/replenish.
- There is no general Bible command for others to bear children.
- Where is the commandment found? There is none at all.
- There is not even a Bible requirement for everyone to marry.
- This simple fact reduces the controversy to Christian liberty.
- Arguing beyond this simple point shows their heretical agenda.
• Marriage is crucial for childbirth, but marriage is entirely a liberty.

• Marriage trumps childbirth easily, showing childbirth is also liberty.

• Arguing from the greater to the lesser refutes FQ rejection of FPBC.

• Celibate saints in the Bible and history were great. Think John, Paul.

• Abstinence or sterilization are by far the most effective (Mat 19:10-12).

• Therefore, any Bible saint not marrying practiced the strictest FPBC.
Elijah, John, Anna, Paul Were Celibate

- Their reason does not matter – they practiced the strictest FPBC.
- They practiced birth control by marriage control – none of either!
- They totally ignored and rejected any Genesis multiply mandate.
- They wasted their reproductive ability … and of a potential spouse!
- They totally rejected any children or family tree for themselves.
- They earnestly sought to enlist others to be like them (I Cor 7:7-9).
#4: Was Paul Guilty of Selfishness?

- Paul choosing celibacy wasted some sister’s entire egg supply!
- Paul never added to world population or even kingdom population!
- Paul never camped or played checkers with his own children!
- Paul refused God’s reward and full quiver happiness (Ps 127:3-5)!
- Since FQ and VF types say FPBC is selfishness, hurl it at Paul!
- There has never been a greater or happier Christian than Paul!
#5: Children Reduce Godliness

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (I Cor 7:6-9, 25-35).

- Other things being equal – marriage hinders service (Matt 19:10-12).

- If marriage hinders service to Jesus Christ, much more do children!

- Reducing carefulness is the goal; children increase care (I Cor 7:32).

- God ordained marriage good, but serving Christ is better than it.

- Paul would have been severely limited by having a wife or children.
#6: Paul’s Suggestion for Christians

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (I Cor 7:7-9).

- Paul suggested men and women all duplicate his celibacy.

- Of course, choosing to live in celibacy is the strictest FPBC.

- Paul’s only exception was for sexual incontinence (I Cor 7:2-5,9).

- Paul made no exception for nor even mentioned childbirth!

- He clearly had no concept of FQ or VF obsession about children.
#7: Paul’s Suggestion for Virgins

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (I Cor 7:36-38).

- With 40 years of ovulation ahead, Paul suggested virgins be single.

- Do you see this is a waste of two ... single girl and wishing guy?

- Paul’s suggestion of marriage control declares approval of FPBC.

- How big does a family tree get with your daughters kept at home?

- Could a father and family enjoy God’s happiness without kids?
#8: Paul’s Suggestion for Widows

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (1 Cor 7:39-40).

- Paul suggested, by the Holy Spirit, widows practice total FPBC.

- Young widows could wax wanton and marry, so no support (1 Ti 5:11).

- Young widows were to have babies to work, not multiply (1 Tim 5:14).

- Good widows, of any age, could serve Christ like Anna, w/o kids.

- The point of all this is to see the total lack of FQ or VF extremism.
• Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (1 Cor 7:25-28).

• The “present distress” led Paul to suggest that virgins stay single.

• The “present distress” led him to suggest divorcees stay single.

• Marriage would not be a sin, but it would cause them trouble.

• God’s providence did not cover the “present distress” (1 Cor 7:26).

• The saints were to take counter measures rather than be fatalists.
#9: Societal Changes Justify FPBC (2)

- Societal changes at Corinth caused Paul to warn about marriage.

- God said marriage was good, but at times it might not be good.

- Practical adjustments may be godly prudence, not compromise.

- If society makes marriage difficult, children would be much more!

- Jesus said pregnancy and nursing were bad for 70 A.D. (Matt 24:19).

- Jesus said blessed women would not conceive or nurse (Luke 23:29).
#9: Societal Changes Justify FPBC (3)

- Hosea warned against conceiving, birthing, or nursing (Hos 9:11-16).

- Be real! Wise men discern the times and adjust (I Ch 12:32; Ec 8:1-5).

- Should the martyrs have been rabbits to fill racks and fuel fires?

- If you and your spouse were in prison, would you try to conceive?

- Since you live in perilous times, should you want 10-20 children?

- No farm to work them; greater temptations; evil legislation. Think!
#10: The Principle of Mercy Allows FPBC (1)

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Matthew 12:1-7).

- God had commanded tabernacle shewbread was only for priests.

- David ate the shewbread anyway, because he was a little hungry.

- Jesus justified him and used him as an example of wise godliness.

- There is no comparable command to shewbread today to multiply.

- Therefore, the principle of mercy is even stronger for use of FPBC.
#10: The Principle of Mercy Allows FPBC (2)

- Why deny mercy to a couple birthing five children in six years?
- Why deny mercy to a couple deferring children for medical school?
- Why deny mercy to a wife that is ready to fall apart after ten?
- What if a couple enjoy each other best without fear of pregnancy?
- If your first three were mongoloid, would you maybe stop at ten?
- What if a couple wants to enjoy life and God, training two in truth?
#11: The Principle of Prudence Allows It

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Proverbs 22:3; 27:12).
- Paul taught all things are lawful, but not all things are expedient.
- If you desire to serve the Lord and His kingdom, is there liberty?
- If you fear the temptations of this generation, is there liberty?
- If you know homeschooling will demand a lot, is there liberty?
- The final goal is hard: high character, fine career, godly spouse, etc.
#12: What About Animals Multiplying? (1)

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Genesis 1:22; 8:17).

- God ordained with Adam and Noah for animals to greatly multiply.

- Do not use Adam or Noah unless you are going to be consistent.

- How many pets have VF folks had spayed or kept from multiplying?

- What in the world are Biblical oxen, but bulls with vasectomies!

- It is difficult to plow with bulls, especially yoked with another one!
#12: What About Animals Multiplying? (2)

- If farmers let every bull stay a bull ... what would pull the plow?
- Stallions race well with whips, but geldings are for grandchildren!
- A male dog or cat kept home disobeys God’s mandate to multiply.
- If your cat is in heat, it is your moral obligation to put it out at night.
- Gerbils, parrots, or lizards in a cage are pure rebellion against God.
- All the principles that apply to humans apply here due to Genesis.
Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Luke 4:9-12).

In spite of a Bible promise, God expects us to use natural means.

Expecting God to do what we can naturally do is to tempt Him.

Is safety of the LORD? Yes, but the horse is prepared! (Pr 21:31)

Does God build the house? Yes, but there are laborers! (Ps 127:1).

Most cannot afford the Duggar family, and God has not promised.
#13: Thou Shalt Not Tempt the Lord (2)

- Think finances, health, romance, training, care, quiet, and peace!

- “God will not do for you what you can do for yourself” is partly true.

- God often delivers us from our own folly, but we cannot presume.

- If you have more than you can afford and confess it, God will help.

- Snake-handling Pentecostals presume on God to their own deaths.

- Do we trust God for a job without education, resume, or looking?
• We pray for our daily bread and trust God for it, but we go get it!

• Ruth and Naomi, two widows, were not fatalists. Ruth gleaned!

• The LORD keeps the city, but we lock our doors at night (Ps 127:1).

• The LORD is safer than chariots, but we still pay the army (Ps 20:7).

• Why do conies live in the rock? Could they trust God in the field?

• The Bible says take no thought for the morrow. Can you explain it?
#14: Full Quiver Types Favor Mariolaters

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Luke 11:27-28).

- You must hear or read female FQ types to appreciate this point.

- Like this Mariolater, they fixate over pregnancy, childbirth, nursing.

- Pregnancy, childbirth, nursing is what junkyard dogs do every day.

- The real womanly issue is not an afterbirth, belly button, or paps.

- The real issue is a mother’s law to train a Samuel or a Timothy!
Full Quiver Types Miss Virtuous Woman

- Women fixated on conception, childbirth, nursing miss their full role.
- Their concept of a family/home is a cute Little House on the Prairie.
- It is an idealistic fantasy of a sweet, crooning, baby-making domestic.
- She is barefoot, pregnant, nursing, potty training, and homeschooling.
- Where is her beauty, intelligence, creativity, and productivity (Pr 31:10-31)?
- Conceiving, nursing is put over romance, training, charity, estate building.
• Read the text and be honest with it, if you can  (Prov 17:6; 10:1; 15:20).

• Foolish children are a calamity and grief  (Prov 17:21,25; 19:13).

• Only wise children are a blessing and joy  (Prov 23:15-16,24-25).

• Only wise grandchildren are a crown to old men. Fools are a pain!

• Quality is far better than quantity, and it declines with quantity!

• Quality requires intense training, which declines with numbers.
• The obsession with mere biological reproduction is foolishly naïve.

• Scripture emphasizes training, not begetting (Pr 22:6,15; 29:15,17).

• Junkyard dogs beget junkyard dogs; godly men train great saints.

• A wife is favor from God ... only if a virtuous woman (Pr 18:22; 19:14).

• Given society, homeschooling, high goals ... is 20 kids a wise plan?

• Paul believed Eph 6:4, but how many kids of his own did he have?
#17: Principles of Christian Ethics Applied (1)

- **INTENT** ... intent or spirit of a law exceeds its letter.
- **MERCY** ... mercy is godlier than ceremony or law.
- **SUFFERING** ... your loss or pain does not determine action.
- **IGNORANCE** ... you need not know all details/exceptions.
- **SPECIFICITY** ... a specific law overrides general provisions.
- **OFFENCE** ... we avoid offending all parties if possible.
- **PRUDENCE** ... discretion may be better than open valor.
- **TEMPTING** ... do not presume God to do what you should.
- **PASSION** ... human passion will alter human judgment.
- **CONSCIENCE** ... God gave conscience for internal guidance.
- **LIBERTY** ... do as you prefer where scripture is silent.
#17: Principles of Christian Ethics Applied

- CAREFULNESS ... choose among options to minimize care
- PRECEDENCE ... earlier or known tendencies alter judgment.
- APPEARANCE ... choice of action must include perception.
- WIDOWS ... never afflict, frighten, or neglect the needy.
- OVER MUCH ... more conservative than scripture is profane.
- FAITH – REST ... God only expects your reasonable best.
- GOLDEN RULE ... do to others as you want them to do to you.
- TEMPTATION ... choices should usually reduce temptation.
- SAVING LIFE ... preservation of life trumps most other rules.
- RESULTS ... results good or bad are not wise indicators.
#18: Rules of Christian Conduct Applied

- Is it forbidden in God’s word?
- Does it compromise or tend in the direction of breaking God’s word?
- Does it have the appearance of evil?
- Will it provide an opportunity to be tempted and to sin?
- Will it hinder the effect of God’s word on me and my obedience to it?
- Do I have doubts in my conscience about doing it?
- Does it dominate me? Can I take it or leave it?
- Will it offend a brother to as to hinder conversion or fellowship?
- Will it embolden someone else to sin?
- Can I do it to God’s glory in the name of Jesus with thanksgiving?
• All our children should marry at puberty to not waste seed/eggs.

• All our women should actively pursue conception to menopause.

• We should use fertility pills (witty inventions) for multiple births.

• All our women should not nurse, since it is natural birth control.

• Then the rhythm or any “natural” method is as wrong as any other.

• Any couple with less than 20 should be examined by the church.
#19: If Birth Control Is Sinfully Wrong … (2)

- God and nature wasted their wisdom teaching us about ovulation.
- Multiplying children is different than kittens, which we wisely limit.
- Auto, life, and medical insurance are also wrong for strong faith.
- We could move to polygamous countries to have multiple wives.
- We could adopt another for every birth to help others have more.
- Being single while ovulating is a violation of scriptural due order.
A Few Miscellaneous Thoughts

• Should those with mental or physical gene confusion reproduce?

• Should we trust God by virtue of the Genesis multiply mandate?

• Christians should march against the dog pound to fulfill Genesis!

• Which is more important? Reproducing biologically or spiritually?

• Should a woman risking bodily harm conceiving again trust God?

• Roman Catholics prohibit birth control for laity, marriage for clergy.
• Opponents of birth control should adopt more than they can afford (God will provide), so others can reproduce to replenish the earth.

• The truth neither requires marriage nor forbids it (I Co 7:6-9; I Ti 4:1-3).

• The truth neither requires FPBC nor forbids it (Rom 14:5, 22-23).

• Ovulation /conception has always been known for men & animals.

• Did Jephthah’s daughter bewail her virginity or her childless life?
• Two African teenagers marry in the LORD, they scrounge for a little food each day ... but they should have daily sex without FPBC?

• How efficient, romantic is a homeschooling mom with 8 under 10?

• How much time does she have to fulfill her other multiple duties?

• Said already, all things are lawful, but not all things are expedient.

• If Agur prayed for moderation, is it wrong to plan a modest family?
Family Planning – Duggar Style

Jim Bob (41) and Michelle (40) and 17 children (2007)
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Objection #1: God Said to Multiply (1)

• Yes, God told Adam and Noah to multiply (Gen 1:28; 9:1,7)

• God told Adam to be a vegetarian (Ge 1:29). Jesus ate meat.

• God told Noah’s animals to breed (Ge 8:17). What are oxen?

• God told Abram to move (Ge 12:1). Why are you still here?

• God told Israel to stand still (II Chr 20:17). Why didn’t David?

• God told Isaiah to walk naked for three years (Is 20:1-4). Will you?
Objection #1: God Said to Multiply (2)

• Adam and Noah’s earth was empty. The world needed children!

• Earth has 7.1 billion as of 3/6/2013. What needs replenishing?

• John, Anna, Jesus, and Paul fully ignored the multiply mandate.

• These men were eunuchs – dry trees for God (Matt 19:12; Isaiah 56:3).

• Paul encouraged others to be like eunuchs with them (I Cor 7:7-9).

• The strictest form of birth control is total abstinence by celibacy.
Objection #1: God Said to Multiply (3)

- Jesus was very conscientious about all righteousness (Matt 3:15).
- Jesus always did those things that pleased His Father (John 8:29).
- Yet Jesus did not get married or have children! Was He righteous?
- Paul fought a good fight, but not to provide for numerous offspring.
- Paul kept the faith, but his faith did not include fathering children.
- Paul finished his course, but it did not include children (II Tim 4:7).
Objection #2: Marriage Is to Multiply (1)

• It might be to Roman Catholics, but it is not to Bible Christians.

• God made Eve for companionship (Gen 2:18-25; Ecc 4:9-12; 9:9; Ru 3:1).

• God made Eve for pleasure sex (I Cor 7:1-5; Pr 5:19; Gen 29:20).

• Paul identified a large purpose for marriage – sex (I Cor 7:1-5,9).

• Paul identified why fasting had to be mutual and short (I Cor 7:5).

• He could have easily mentioned children here, but he did not at all.
Objection #2: Marriage Is to Multiply (2)

• Does Solomon’s Song glorify marriage for children or for romance?

• Reproducing is a secondary, inferior, unnecessary reason to marry.

• Reproduction may result from marriage, but it is not its purpose.

• Children by a lawful wife are a blessing, not a necessity (Pr 5:15-19).

• Paul suggested widows marry and have children to stay busy.

• Mother Church of harlots and abominations multiplies this way.
Objection #3: God Killed Onan for FPBC (1)

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Genesis 38:7-10).

- Onan was to marry his sister-in-law and beget a child for his brother.

- God killed Onan for hating a departed brother and defrauding him!

- God killed Onan for disobeying his father’s order for his brother!

- The passage has no relevancy at all for the FPBC controversy.

- The passage has no relevancy for questions about onanism either.
Objection #3: God Killed Onan for FPBC

- There is no mandate or direct lesson in Onan’s sin for us today.

- Onan’s sin has been perverted a dozen ways by puritanical types.

- The method Onan used was not the sin, but rather the motive.

- David did not care about the Onan event with Michal (II Sa 6:20-23).
Objection #4: Children Are God’s Blessing (1)

- They reason – so we should have as many as we possibly can.

- Rain is a blessing – but in harvest it is a travesty (Pr 26:1; 1 Sa 12:17).

- Rain is a blessing – but we use roofs, gutters, dams, levees, etc.

- Sunshine is a blessing – but it can scorch and kill (Pr 13:6; Rev 16:9).

- Sunshine is a blessing – but we use sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.

- Sun and rain are only good in the right amount at the right time.
Objection #4: Children Are God’s Blessing

- Salt is good, Jesus said. But too much can damage anything.

- Recall! Marriage is a huge blessing! But Paul taught to avoid it.

- Children are a blessing, but too many of this blessing is a burden.

- Riches are God’s blessing ... but Agur prayed against this blessing.

- God’s blessings come through our use of His ordained means.

- Promotion is a blessing, but we may turn it down for many reasons.
Objection #5: Conception Is a Sovereign Work

- They reason – we dare not interfere with God’s sovereign work.
- I promise you that you cannot interfere with God’s sovereign work!
- Conception is not a sovereign work – God uses man’s will & work.
- Conception is a natural consequence of a man with a woman.
- Both animals and pagans do it by simply mating at the right time.
- Conception is not a mystery – man’s will and work with a woman.
Objection #5: Conception Is a Sovereign Work (2)

- It is far less sovereign than rain, which we avoid by many means.
- Birth control is prudence controlling what God gave us to control.
- Ovulation /conception has always been known for men & animals.
- God works His will by our choices and efforts, not without them.
- How did Eve get a man from the LORD? By having sex (Gen 4:1)!
- Promotion cometh from the LORD ... with our hard work (Ps 75:6-7)!
Objection #6: A Full Quiver Is God’s Will (1)

- Read the text and be honest with it, if you can (Psalm 127:3-5).
- Conception and children are in certain respects God’s blessings.
- Good children in their youth could greatly assist Israelite farmers.
- Is every woman a good thing and favor of the LORD (Pr 18:22; 19:14)?
- How big was the quiver of Elijah, John, Jesus, Anna, and Paul?
- How full were their quivers? How impotent were they w/o arrows?
Objection #6: A Full Quiver Is God’s Will

- Did Paul consign the Corinthians to an unrewarded, unhappy life?
- Marriage is a greater reward to be happy, but not always expedient.
- A promotion is a reward and happy event, unless too much care.
- How big is your quiver for a glorious family? 5? 10? 15? 20?
Objection #7: What about History?

- Some argue that church history proves FPBC wrong today.

- Only Roman Catholics consider church history to be authoritative.

- Since Protestants came from Rome, they will retain some heresies.

- Paul justified drastic FPBC ideas by societal changes (I Cor 7:26).

- He basically rejected O.T. mandate and history to suggest FPBC.

- An urban society with easy FPBC means is a very different world.
We love children and large families for God’s glory in a sinful world.

Remember – we are not requiring FPBC for everyone or anyone.

Remember – we consider it entirely a matter of Christian liberty.

Our controversy is against FQ or VF types for condemning FPBC.

Our desire is to stand on the word of God with the liberty it allows.

Marry, have 4 or so children (our average), train them to God’s glory!
For Further Study

- For Family Planning ... [http://www.skepticalchristian.com/birthcontrol.htm](http://www.skepticalchristian.com/birthcontrol.htm).
- Against Family Planning ... [http://www.mountainretreatorg.net/articles/birth_control.shtml](http://www.mountainretreatorg.net/articles/birth_control.shtml).