

Command 7: "You shall not commit adultery" (Exod. 20:14)

## V. Reproductive Technology

[Introductory comment: If children are born in ways not approved below, still love and care for them. thank God for them!]

- A. **Main point:** Modern medical technology that helps married couples to have children is, in general, a good thing
1. Medicine in general is morally good (not just morally neutral) and we should thank God for it.
    - a. God put resources in the earth for us to discover and develop, and gave us wisdom and desires to do this.  
Gen 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it"  
Ps 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,
  2. Medicine is necessary at least b/c of the curse and the fact that we are subject to disease, injuries, and death.
    - Gen 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (instant spiritual death, but progressive physical death also began)
    - Gen 3:19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
    - Rom 5:12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— (I'm not sure if medicine would be necessary in a sinless world to help people recover from accidental injuries, but I think this is possible or even likely)
  3. Jesus' ministry of healing showed that it is pleasing to God to try to help people overcome diseases and injuries.  
Luke 4:40 he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.
  4. Therefore we should support and welcome advances in medicine that bring genuine help to people with various diseases - including infertility.
  5. Some kinds of reproductive technologies are morally good on this basis.
    - a. **Artificial insemination by husband (AIH)**  
– because biological father and biological mother of the child are married to each other  
However, Rom. Cath. church opposes this, based on "natural law"  
*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (rev. edn., 1997), para. 2377: "Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act."
    - b. **In vitro fertilization (IVF)** – husband's sperm and wife's egg joined in laboratory (Latin *in vitro* = "in glass")  
- but only if it can be done without the destruction of embryos that are conceived  
I would not support the creation of multiple embryos that are not used (see B.2.b below), but if unused embryos are created, they should be frozen until a mother can carry them to term
    - c. **Gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT)** -- eggs and sperm inserted directly into woman's fallopian tubes, where they might find each other ☺ so that conception will occur
    - d. **Zygote intrafallopian transfer (ZIFT)** – fertilized egg implanted directly into woman's fallopian tubes  
(what is difference between zygote and embryo? )
- B. **Restriction #1:** We should treat the unborn child as a human person from the moment of conception  
(This is a clear line of demarcation: the human embryo contains the entire genetic makeup of the new person, different from both the mother and the father)
1. See discussion on abortion (under Commandment 6 earlier):  
Luke 1:41, 44 (John the Baptist) And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit... behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.  
Ps 51:5 (David) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.  
Gen 25:22-23 (Jacob & Esau)  
Ps 139:13-15 (David) For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
Ex 21:22-25 (Two men fighting – cause premature birth) "When men strive together and hit a pregnant woman, so that her children come out . . . if there is harm, then you shall pay life for life,"
  2. Several kinds of reproductive technologies cause the destruction of human lives- therefore morally unacceptable.
    - a. **Intra-uterine device (IUD)** – fertilized eggs are not allowed to implant, cannot survive
    - b. **IVF with selective reduction** – fertilized eggs are destroyed
    - c. **IVF with multifetal pregnancy reduction** – tiny babies growing in womb are destroyed
    - d. **IVF for sex selection**- because it results in the destruction of embryos of the sex not desired (or the failure to raise and care for embryos created)
  3. **What about embryo adoption?** ("Snowflake children"- first one born in 1998 – Hannah Strege)
    - a. If the embryos can be brought to normal development and birth, this seems to me to be the best solution to a problem that should not have been caused in the first place. God may bring much blessing to those who adopt and raise these embryos as children. (Think of them as "frozen children" who need to be adopted.)
    - b. 400,000 – 600,000 frozen embryos now in US – about 50% will be implanted into their own mothers
    - c. Baby Liam Burke, normal recently born after 19 years frozen as embryo (San Jose *Mercury News* 9-4-13)

- C. **Restriction #2:** God's intention for bearing & raising of children is that the child's father and mother should be married to each other.
1. God's original plan and purpose were that children should only be conceived by a man and a woman who are married to each other:
    - Gen 1:28 (to Adam and Eve, who were husband and wife) And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it"
    - Ex 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."
    - Ex 22:16 "If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to be married and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife."
    - Matt 19:6 "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." (But see divorce lecture for more details on when Scripture allows divorce)
  2. In adoption, a child is not raised by its own mother and father, but this is a remedy for some tragedy that happened (death or divorce)
    - The biological father and mother did not conceive the child intending that somebody else would raise it.
    - Even in these cases - adopted into a family with a mother & father who were married to each other.
  3. Some reproductive technologies violate the principle that a child's father and mother should be married to each other, and these technologies should not be seen as morally right
    - a. **Artificial insemination by donor (AID)** – woman carries a baby from another man, not her husband
    - b. Women becoming pregnant from **anonymous sperm bank**
      - sometimes b/c of infertile husband (but they intend that this child will be forever separated from its father)
      - increasingly today, done by single mothers or lesbian couples who want a baby such children will not have any father (this is not God's intention for raising children – see C.1 above)
    - c. **Egg donors:** women selling their eggs, people buying them (i) because wife is infertile, or (ii) to have another woman (not the wife) carry a baby (created with a sperm donor), then they pay for it
      - (1) Medically invasive, with unstudied, unknown risks for the woman who is the egg donor
      - (2) AZ law prohibits this for any other reason than infertility (2010 AZ law supported by CAP)
      - (3) This wrongly turns conception, embryos, & motherhood into commodities that are bought & sold -- we should not be buying and selling people!
    - d. **Surrogate motherhood**
      - (1) I think the intimacy involved in carrying and bearing a child is so deep that this procedure will often put a nearly intolerable strain on the marriage. It will intrude a third person into the marriage relationship – another woman (the surrogate mother). (2) One somewhat similar example in Scripture led to huge trouble (until the present day!):  
Gen 16:1-5 (Abraham & Hagar) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. <sup>2</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. <sup>3</sup> So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. <sup>4</sup> And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. <sup>5</sup> And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!"
    - e. Children born through these processes often have serious issues of origin, identity, belonging—see CAP policy page: [www.azpolicypages.com](http://www.azpolicypages.com)
  4. **What about "baby carriers"?** What about a woman just carrying another couple's baby – where the "gestational mother" or "gestational carrier" (who carries the baby) is not the "genetic mother" (the source of egg for conception):
    - a. If done as commercial transaction: morally unacceptable because of frequent exploitation, turning motherhood into commercial process
    - b. What if done by relative out of genuine compassion, and b/c of medical inability of mother to carry child?
      - I am somewhat unsure about this situation, but I still have serious reservations
      - bonding of "gestational mother" with baby might be very strong – this woman becomes the baby's "mother" in some ways (not in all ways, but some) – physical, emotional, hormonal attachment
      - Frequent legal battles: see famous case of Mary Beth Whitehead and Baby M, born 3-27-86
  5. **What about cloning?** – No, this is not God's way of producing more human beings (w/ F + M)
  6. Scripture views children as a "gift" from the Lord, not a "right" that people have  
"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward." (Ps. 127:3)