



# Redesigning the Created Human Being 2: God, Marriage, & Procreation

*by James Fickenscher and Aaron Roggow*

## Focus

This section focuses on the Biblical teaching of marriage and, if it is God's will, the procreation of a child within the context of the one flesh union of a husband and wife. Section One and Two lay down the basics of the theology of creation, marriage, and genetics from which you will be able to structure your thinking regarding the future of mankind in light of Assisted Reproductive Technology.

## Open with Prayer

Lord God, who created man and woman and prepared them for married life, blessed them also with the gift of procreation, and in this shown us an image of the union of Your Son Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church. Because of your never-ending goodness, we ask that you would not let marriage, your creation, desire, and blessing for us, be removed or destroyed, but graciously preserve it among us through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

## I. Marriage and Procreation

### Marriage

How did God ordain marriage between a man and woman? Read Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18, 21-24.

Remember the video from Section One, "God Knew Your Name?" How did it help you understand the teaching of marriage and procreation?

What is the relationship of marriage of a man and woman, and Christ and His church? Read Ephesians 5:22-32.

- How does Christ set the model for the husband in this passage?
- How does the church set the model for the wife in this passage?
- How does the image of Christ and the church shape our view of the marriage relationship?

### Procreation

Conception is a process from fertilization to birth. There are not moments in the development of a human being; the human child's development in the womb of the mother is a continuum. How do the following passages testify to this process especially focusing on the word 'and' that connects the conception to birth as a continuum?

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23; Luke 1:31

What is so special about these passages as they relate to you as a created human in your mother's womb, born and baptized into Christ?

There are many other passages that speak about children, but what does Psalm 127:3 specifically say about the gift of a child?

From your viewpoint, how has the world distorted such a view of the developing child in the womb?

## **II. Parenting the Child**

Since children are a gift from God, how do these Biblical passages shape parental responsibilities? Read Proverbs 17:6; 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Ephesians 6:1-3.

Based on the above Biblical passages would you agree that parents who 'make a baby in a test-tube' and then have the left over embryonic human children frozen in liquid nitrogen at -3210F are parenting according to God's Word? Why or why not?

Children who are adopted are God's gift to an infertile couple. What are your thoughts on adoption as a gift given by God to couples who cannot procreate a child?

## **III. Case Study**

Break into groups of 2 or 3 and discuss how you would respond regarding this real life experience of a pregnant teenager as it teaches you about Biblical marriage, procreation, and parenting according to God's word. How would you talk to a fellow teenager who finds herself pregnant, as well as the boy who is involved?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaTeBEclWoc> (Part I, 4 minutes)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSeCEd1HG\\_o&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSeCEd1HG_o&feature=related) (Part II 3 minutes)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVF\\_jP3yM8I&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVF_jP3yM8I&feature=related) (Part III 6 minutes)

## **Closing Prayer**

Most gracious God, we give thanks for the holy and blessings that You grant to husbands and wives. Assist them always by Your grace that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their marriage vows, grow in love toward You and for each other, and come at last to the eternal joys that You have promised; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (LSB, p. 315)