

# INFORMATION

## from Focus on the Family

### Resources Regarding the Possible Abortifacient Effect of the Birth Control Pill

#### Suggested Reading List

##### Available on the Web:

1) R. Fleischmann [Rev. Robert Fleischmann], **"The Christian and Birth Control: The Pill,"** WELS Lutherans for Life, 1999.

This white paper is the result of the research into this issue by the national director of WELS. Rev. Fleischmann concludes, "I cannot yet bring myself to recommend the birth control pill, but I also cannot condemn it at this time. I think people should know of the questions concerning it and make the difficult decisions for themselves as they have to make difficult decisions all the time. As for me, I find it difficult to recommend the pill with its potential for being an abortifacient when I can more comfortably recommend other birth control methods that clearly do not carry such a risk, such as natural family planning..."

[www.wels.net/wfl/bible/biblstdy/pill.htm](http://www.wels.net/wfl/bible/biblstdy/pill.htm)

2) R. Alcorn [Rev. Randy Alcorn], **"Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions?"** (Fourth Edition), Eternal Perspective Ministries, 2000.

This updated and revised booklet discusses the author's extensive research into the abortifacient effects of the pill. To start the discussion, Rev. Alcorn says, "I came to this issue as a skeptic. Though I heard people here and there make an occasional claim that the Pill caused abortions, I learned long ago not to trust everything said by sincere Christians, who are sometimes long on zeal but short on careful research." The fifth edition should be available at the Web site later this fall. [www.epm.org/bcp.html](http://www.epm.org/bcp.html)

3) W.L. Larimore [Dr. Walter (Walt) L. Larimore], **"The Growing Debate About the Abortifacient Effect of the Birth Control Pill and the Principle of 'Double Effect,'" "Ethics and Medicine** 2000, 16(1):23-30.

This article evaluates the available evidence about the postfertilization effects of oral contraceptives, and examines a review which concluded that "...good evidence exists to support the hypothesis that the effectiveness of the pill depends to some degree on postfertilization effects." However, that review also concluded, "...there are insufficient data to quantitate the relative contribution of postfertilization effects." Nevertheless, the authors suggest, "...the principles of informed consent suggest that patients who may object to any postfertilization loss should be made aware of this information so that they can give fully informed consent for the use of the pill." Dr. Larimore's article also introduces the principle of double effect to the equation. His review has been called "...the most concise and academic review of the medical evidence and ethics of this very thorny issue." [www.epm.org/pilldebate.html](http://www.epm.org/pilldebate.html)

4) S.A. Crockett [Dr. Susan A. Crockett], J. DeCook [Dr. Joe DeCook], D. Harrison [Dr. Donna Harrison], C. Hersh [Dr. Camilla Hersh], **"Hormone Contraceptives Controversies and Clarifications," "ProLife Obstetrician," Fennville, Michigan, 1999.**

This white paper is one of only two publications (the other is reference #5) that oppose the abortifacient mechanism of the pill. It has resulted in several responses, including reference #1. The 22 signatories of this paper are all specialists in obstetrics and gynecology, many with sub-specialty interests and faculty appointments at teaching institutions. They discuss the facts that

indicate to them that if a woman decides to use the pill, then they (the authors) "...are confident that (she) is not using an abortifacient." [www.aaplog.org/decook.htm](http://www.aaplog.org/decook.htm)

5) S.A. Crockett [Dr. Susan A. Crockett], J. DeCook [Dr. Joe DeCook], D. Harrison [Dr. Donna Harrison], C. Hersh [Dr. Camilla Hersh], **"Using Hormone Contraceptives Is a Decision Involving Science, Scripture, and Conscience,"** In: J.F. Kilner [John F. Kilner], P.C. Paige [Paige C. Cunningham], W.D. Hager [W. David Hager] (editors), **THE REPRODUCTION REVOLUTION: A CHRISTIAN APPRAISAL OF SEXUALITY, REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, AND THE FAMILY**, WB Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Cambridge, UK, January 2000:192-201.

This article, published in the book **THE REPRODUCTION REVOLUTION**, is the second part of a two-part series on the abortifacient effect of the pill. It contains very little information that is not outlined in reference #4. The book can be ordered from the Center for Bioethics and Human Dignity. [www.bioethix.org/catalog/books.htm](http://www.bioethix.org/catalog/books.htm); or call 847/267-8809.

#### **Available from Focus on the Family:**

6) **"Birth Control Pills and Other Hormonal Contraception,"** Focus on the Family Position Statement, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 1999.

This two-page summary was researched by Focus on the Family's Physicians Resource Council [PRC] (24 members) and reflects Dr. James Dobson's opinion regarding hormonal birth control. It says, in part, "The majority of the experts to which Dr. Dobson has spoken feel that the pill does not have an abortifacient effect. A minority of the experts feel that when conception occurs on the pill, that there is enough of a possibility for an abortifacient effect...to warrant informing women about it." Available by calling 800/A-FAMILY [232-6459]—ask for MS190.

#### **Related resources available from Focus on the Family**

Suggested donation amounts are indicated. Item availability may vary; item codes and suggested donations are subject to change.

- "Ask Dr. Larimore I-II", audiocassette, CT369 \$7 (\$6.99 in Canada)
- "Focus on Women's Health," audiocassette, CT449 \$7 (6.99 in Canada)

#### **Sanctity of Life; When Life Begins**

- **POLITICALLY CORRECT DEATH: ANSWERING THE ARGUMENTS FOR ABORTION RIGHTS** by Francis J. Beckwith (Baker), book, BP267 \$20 (\$28 in Canada)
- **PRO-LIFE ANSWERS TO PRO-CHOICE ARGUMENTS** by Rev. Randy Alcorn (Multnomah), book, BD334 \$13 (\$19 in Canada)
- "The Decision of Life," booklet, LF117 Complimentary
- "Abortion: A Moral Outrage," booklet, LF018 Complimentary

#### **Natural Family Planning**

- "Planning Your Family Naturally" with guest Mercedes Wilson, audiocassette, CS672 \$7 (\$8 in Canada)
- "Natural Family Planning: The Ovulation Method," information sheet, FX272 Complimentary

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