

## **Item #49 (Contraception Is Intrinsicly Evil)**

A major problem for contemporary Christian society is the moral qualification of contraception. Is it intrinsically evil or not? In this note I will argue that it is, and that this is an implicit supposition underlying discussion of marriage in Scripture. Here, as always in this website, the assertion that contraception is intrinsically evil is presented as being plausible by me, and not proved. (But this does not mean that it has not been presented as proved elsewhere where the authority involved in the presentation of a Scripture text can be invoked as standing outside of and superior to interpreters of Scripture like the present author who is interpreting Scripture as a non-divine reader and not as the divine author.)

The supposition on which my argument is based is simple: the violation of the constitutive nature of any moral principle is objectively intrinsically evil if the constitutive nature is morally good. As I understand it, the constitutive purpose of marriage is procreation, that is, the generation of children. The pleasure associated with the act of procreation is not constitutive. This means that a marriage can be objectively morally good if the act of procreation is objectively ordered to the procreation of children and morally evil if something interferes with this objective ordering when the act is performed. (If the act is performed during the infertile period of the woman there is no objective interference and hence such an act is not immoral.)

Same sex marriage is immoral as marriage because it cannot generate life. This is not an assertion based in hatred, it is an assertion based on objective reality.

In the argumentation above pleasure does not figure as an intrinsically constitutive element of legitimate marriage, though it is obviously necessary for the integral fullness of the relation of the two persons performing the constitutive act, and of the completion of the constitutive principle by the education of the children produced by the act. **(James Swetnam, S.J., March 5, 2020)**

Consultation of the following Item (Item 50 [*Humanae Vitae*]) is recommended.