

Parenthood (14): Bad Reasons for Having Children

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Giving life to a new human being is such a grave responsibility that it ought to be considered with only the highest motives. Yet such is often not the case: Prince Charles and Princess Diana have been scorned for the appearance that their failing marriage was arranged mainly to provide an heir to the British throne. Using children as pawns in a power struggle is not new.

America's welfare laws currently place a financial premium upon having children. Thus we now suffer the epidemic of multiple births among unwed mothers simply for a government subsidy.

As respect for the nuclear family has eroded, it is now chic for wealthy, unfulfilled career women to adopt children for companionship. Sort of like an expensive parakeet. Further, homosexuals "rent-a-kid" to validate their chosen debauched lifestyle.

All of these deviant motives demote children from the status of people to possessions. They exist simply to serve the selfish, neurotic aims of their "parents."

Other motives might be more subtle but no less wayward. Some opt for children to save an unraveling marriage. This is a vain attempt to create common ground between a husband and wife who have drifted apart. This is about as foolish as a couple in a bad marriage going into business together or signing a joint contract on a time-share condominium. Parenthood must be based upon the foundation of a strong marriage. If not, the stresses and strains of a multi-year, self-sacrificial commitment will likely worsen matters.

Another mistaken reason for having children is that advanced by Mary Pride and others who believe that parents should just keep on having children until God intervenes and stops them. In the first place, marriage is *not* a command for modern man (1 Cor 7:8), and thus it is not incumbent upon every person to "*go forth and multiply*." Secondly, it is assumed that God expected early man to have as many children as physically possible. Thirdly, God expects us to use reason in the decisions we make in life – including childbirth. It is irresponsible to continue to have children that cannot be adequately provided for.

Having said this, not all children are the products of forethought. "Accidents" happen. But godly people should be prepared for this possibility and happily accept the responsibility as a gift from God. Our next article will explore legitimate reasons for having children.