



Contraception and Homosexuality

Catholic Truth League
Friday Apologetics
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Contraception is "the deliberate attempt to suppress the procreative part of the sexual act." The Catholic Church's teaching on contraception is the source of controversy not only between other religions, but also within the Church. Polls show that, in fact, a MAJORITY of Catholics reject this teaching. Given the strength of our sexual instinct, it is no surprise that people want to get pleasure from sex but avoid having children and the responsibilities that come with them. The Church's prohibition of contraception is based on natural law, which tells us that the marital act has two purposes: 1) a unitive (love-giving purpose, and 2) a procreative (life-giving) purpose. Engaging in the marital act while using contraception thwarts the life-giving part.

Quick Scripture

Gen 38: 8-10 – Story of Onan
Deut 25:5-10 – Compare to above
CCC 2370 – Catechism on contraception
Gen 1:27 – Complementarity of sexes reflects God's inner unity
Lv 18:22 – You shall not lie with a male as with a woman- it is an abomination
Rom 1:27 – Unnatural, shameful, perverse
1 Cor 6:9 – Active homosexuals won't inherit kingdom of God

Common Objections:

1. Contraception is a new practice, so there is nothing relevant in the Bible or in Christian history.
2. Natural Family Planning (NFP) also avoids procreation so its really not any different from using contraception
3. Homosexuals are born with a homosexual attraction and if God made them that way, how can the Church say that a committed same-sex relationship is sinful? Scripture's condemnation of homosexual acts is just a cultural attitude of the time that the Bible was written, it doesn't apply today.

Catholic Response:

1. Actually contraception was widespread in the ancient world. Documents as old as 1900 BC give contraceptive recipes for women to use. The Church has always strongly condemned such practices. The Didache (100-120 AD), St. Hippolytus, St. Jerome, St. Augustine, and all Church Fathers who mention contraception condemn it. In Gen 38:6-10, God strikes Onan dead for "spilling his seed" by premature withdrawal rather than raising offspring for his dead brother's wife. Meanwhile, Deut 25:5-10 specifies only a mild penalty for refusing to raise up offspring for one's dead brother. Apparently God disapproved of Onan's contraceptive action!
2. Contraception perverts sex by blocking its natural purpose and meaning with an artificial device. With NFP, the act takes place in a natural way-women are naturally periodically infertile, and the couple only has sex during those times. Does this perversion of sex affect the love-giving element? Couples who use contraception have a 50% divorce rate, compared to the <5% divorce rate for couples who use NFP.
3. It is very clear through scripture that homosexual acts are gravely immoral: Genesis 19, Lv 18:22, Lv 20:13, Rom 1:27, 1 Cor 6:9, 1 Tim 1:9-10. Using culture as an excuse contradicts the unchanging nature of God. An action that is intrinsically immoral is immoral for all time, because God is everlasting and unchanging. Despite the clear scriptural condemnation of the homosexual act, Christians rightfully empathize for those struggling with homosexual attraction. The key to accepting the Church's teaching on homosexuality without violating this empathy is to understand the homosexual disorder. Many myths have been propagated by "gay rights" activists in our present day. The two most significant myths are that homosexuality is determined at birth, and that the disorder of homosexuality is untreatable. Studies involving identical twins have repeatedly shown that homosexual tendencies are not genetically determined, and reviews of treatment for unwanted same-sex attractions show that it is as successful as treatment for other similar psychological problems: about 30% experience a freedom from symptoms and another 30% experience improvement. See www.cathmed.org/publications/homosexuality.htm for more info.