



## Christian Voices for Life

### Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

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### This week's Topic: Social Consequences of Birth Control

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**Education:** Last week we looked at the physical risks posed by hormonal birth control. But the full consequences of the use of birth control pills involve much more than health problems. Before birth control was readily available, women would often refuse to engage in sexual activity except with a man who promised to marry if she were to get pregnant. The availability of birth control made casual sex seem safe, and the numbers of couples engaging in premarital sex without commitment greatly increased. Increased sex means more pregnancies – and an increase in extramarital

births from 17% (30 years ago) to 41%.<sup>(1)</sup> The NY Times article cited presents the differences between two friends raising children – one married and living in the suburbs with two incomes, and the other scraping by as a single mother.

Increased premarital sex also means more abortions. 54% of women seeking abortions state they were using contraceptives in the month they became pregnant. <sup>(2)</sup> Post abortive women are likely to suffer emotional and mental health consequences which lead to higher rates of anxiety, depression, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicidal behaviors.<sup>(3)</sup>

The contraceptive mentality builds the expectation of sex without consequences – but all too often, the consequences of sexually transmitted disease, or unwanted pregnancy resulting in either abortion or single motherhood bring about long-lasting effects to the detriment of women and their children.

1. J. De Parle, "Two Classes Divided by 'I Do'," The New York Times, July 15, 2012, A1; [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/us/two-classes-in-america-divided-by-i-do.html?\\_r=1&ref=jasondeparle](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/us/two-classes-in-america-divided-by-i-do.html?_r=1&ref=jasondeparle).
2. [http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_induced\\_abortion.html](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html).
3. P.Coleman, "Abortion and Mental Health: Quantitative Synthesis and Analysis of Research Published 1995-2009," British Journal of Psychiatry 199 (2011): 180-86. More at [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org) and [www.afterabortion.org](http://www.afterabortion.org)



**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Please help families, schools, and churches to be faithful in teaching their children to reserve sexual activity for marriage. Help young couples to resist the pressures of society to be sexually active and practice true love and respect for each other in appropriate ways. Help unmarried pregnant women to do the best they can to provide their child with a secure and loving home, whether through marriage, as a single parent, or through an adoption plan.



**Action:** In conversation with friends or neighborhoods, discourage parents from putting their daughters on birth control because they feel unable to prevent them from having sex. Teens are capable of self-control, and parents can definitely influence their choices. Programs in schools and churches can also help. Let's teach teens to look to Jesus for the strength to resist temptation and save sex for marriage.