

*Artificial Birth Control & Natural Family Planning:
What's the Moral Difference?*

While talking to a Catholic couple who were defending their use of artificial birth control, (*abbreviated ABC*) (*the pill, condoms, etc.*), they adamantly insisted it didn't make sense for the Church to allow Natural Family Planning, (*abbreviated NFP*), and not allow ABC. They said both are used for the same purpose. As stated this seems to make some sense until we look deeper into God's natural plan for sex and marriage.

Even secular evolution confirms God's plan for sex, which is to continue the species. In the case of humans this also includes holding parents together to foster a family environment for our helpless babies.

ABC interrupts God's potential for human life that is natural to sexual intercourse. When abstaining from intercourse at fertile times, (NFP) there is no such interference. Married couples are naturally permitted to choose when to have or not have this relationship. Of course, the use of NFP for selfish refusal to have children altogether is also outside of God's will.

Natural sex within marriage is a continuation and renewal of the grace of the sacrament of Christian marriage. ABC, because it seeks the pleasure of sex without the natural consequences makes a sham of God's plan and denies the couple the natural and divine blessings.

With the development and promotion of ABC in the past sixty years we have seen the divorce rate go from about 1% to over 50%. It is interesting that the divorce rate among couples who practice NFP is only about 3% even today. Scientific statistics show that since the popularity of ABC, there has been a dramatic increase in adultery, spouse abuse, child abuse, depression, and teen delinquency.

It's not difficult to figure out why.

God's rules are not arbitrary. They have roots in nature and creation itself. Our Church may, and does, lose members because of misunderstandings about its teachings. The Pope and bishops cannot change the truths of nature or the plan of the Creator. When we refuse to accept any one teaching of Christ alive in His Church, we nullify the whole God-given teaching authority. Where does that leave us?