

How well do you know the Catholic faith? Well, let's find out..."

This is a very interesting question. What does the Church say about this? What is the Church's judgment on surrogate motherhood and artificial insemination?

A) All assistance in conceiving a child through research and medicine must stop when the common bond of parenthood is loosened and destroyed by the intrusion of a third person or when conception becomes a technological act outside of sexual union in marriage. Out of respect for human dignity, the Church cannot approve of the technologically assisted conception of a child through artificial insemination or fertilization. (CCC 2374-2377)

Every child has in God's plan the right to have a father and a mother, to know his parents, and if at all possible to grow up surrounded by their love. Artificial insemination and fertilization with the sperm of another man or the ovum of another woman (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) also destroys the spirit of marriage, in which husband and wife have the right to become a father or a mother only through the other spouse. But even homologous artificial insemination and fertilization (in which the sperm and the ovum come from the spouses) make a child the product of a technological procedure and does not allow it to originate from the loving union of a personal sexual encounter. If the child becomes a product, however, then that leads immediately to cynical questions about product quality and product liability. The Church also rejects pre-implantation diagnosis, which is carried out for the purpose of killing imperfect embryos. Surrogate motherhood, too, in which an artificially conceived embryo is contrary to human dignity.

B) The Church doesn't have any statement about this topic.

C) Pope Francis wants to change the teaching of the Church about these topics.

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We were talking with our teenage children and these questions came up in our discussion: What is adultery? Is divorce the appropriate answer?

A) Adultery is committed when two people, at least one of whom is married to someone else, have sexual relations and when it occurred spouses are automatically divorced.

B) The Church doesn't talk about divorce. It is a gray area in the teaching of the Church.

C) Adultery is committed when two people, at least one of whom is married to someone else, have sexual relations. Adultery is the fundamental betrayal of love, the violation of a covenant that was made in God's sight, and an injustice to one's neighbor. Jesus himself explicitly declared the indissolubility of marriage: "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mk 10:9). Citing the original will of the Creator, Jesus abolished the tolerance of divorce in the Old Covenant.

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