

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

My child came home with this question from the school. Why are all methods of preventing the conception of a child not equally good?

A) The Church doesn't have any recommendation. The Couple can choose their methods.

B) The Church doesn't recommend and permit any methods of preventing the conception of a child.

C) The Church recommends the refined methods of self-observation and natural family planning (NFP) as methods of deliberately regulating conception. These are in keeping with the dignity of man and woman; they respect the innate laws of the female body; they demand mutual affection and consideration and therefore are a school of love. (CCC 2370 -2372, 2399)

The church pays careful attention to the order of nature and sees in it a deep meaning. For her it is therefore not a matter of indifference whether a couple manipulates the woman's fertility or instead makes use of the natural alternation of fertile and infertile days. It is no accident that Natural Family Planning is called natural: it is ecological, holistic, healthy, and an exercise in

partnership. On the other hand the church rejects all artificial means of contraception-namely, chemical methods, ("the Pill"), mechanical methods (for example, condom, intra-uterine device, or IUD), and surgical methods (sterilization)-since these attempt to separate the sexual act from its procreative potential and block the total self-giving of husband and wife. Such methods can even endanger the woman's health, have an abortifacient effect (=cause a very early abortion), and in the long run be detrimental to the couple's love life.

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This is another question from my teenage daughter. ***What can a childless couple do?***

A) Married couples who suffer from infertility can accept medical assistance that does not contradict the dignity of the human person, the rights of the child to be conceived, and the holiness of the sacrament of marriage.

B) They can use any method suggested by the doctor.

C) They should go and try to find another spouse. They don't have to be together anymore.

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