

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Parenthood and Children

(Jerry Fite)

Children “are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is His reward” (Psalm 127:3). As any mother can attest with Jesus, “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for the joy that a man is born into the world” (John 17:21). Anguish and joy not only accompany the birth process, they also find their way into parenthood: “A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother” (Proverbs 10:1).

God does not ignore the realities of giving birth, having children, and the experiences of parenthood, but when did God ever view having a baby as “punishment”, placed in the same category with a sexually transmitted disease”? Or, when did God ever see parenthood being “worse than divorce, unemployment...even the death of a partner”, as a recent study concluded (Demography; Ariana EuJung Cha)

In a 2008 town hall meeting, candidate Barack Obama spoke about his responsibility of teaching his two girls about values and morals.

“...but if they make a mistake, I do not want them punished with a baby. I do not want them punished with a STD at the age of 16.”

Bringing life into the world in the form of an innocent little baby is an unspeakable joy. The reasons such could be considered punishment are if we are looking at the hardships that will occur if you are not married, and will have to raise the child alone. Maybe you do not have the financial resources to support a child, causing anxiety. With a dependent baby, you will no longer have much free time to do what you want, but will have to spend your time taking care of an infant; or you will have to put your plans and career on hold, as you take on the job of being a fulltime parent.

Looking at parenthood in this light is exactly what the organization of Planned Parenthood does in counseling. A pregnant woman is given three options to consider when coming to a Planned Parenthood clinic: abortion, adoption or parenting. The end results are that each year abortion is chosen more often than the other two options that would save a human life.

According to Planned Parenthood’s 2013-2014 Annual Report, 327, 653 abortion services were performed, with only 18, 684 prenatal services, and 1,880 adoptive referrals to other agencies conducted.

What does this say about our culture? Anything that makes our life inconvenient or hard is considered “punishment”. So, we can legally have an abortion and avoid the punishment. We do not want our teenagers to be “punished” with an unwanted pregnancy. So, if the moral virtue of “abstinence” before marriage is not heeded, and contraceptive measures are ignored, one still has the option of legally avoiding “punishment” by killing the baby.

We are not abhorred by breaking in pieces the body of the baby after a salt solution has scalded the baby in the protective womb. What riles us up is when baby parts from the abortion clinics are being sold. We might slightly cringe in hearing those immersed in the abortion business suggest abortion doctors use less “crunchy” methods so more useable parts can be salvaged. What do you expect from those hardened already by murder in the name of free choice?