

O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 43 - Issue 02 - February 2026



"To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we must consider who has been made joint-heirs. It is lowly sinners, unclean, condemned and cursed, rebels, outcasts, having no hope and without God in this world, living in a fallen world, headed toward an eternity of judgment. Yet these are the ones who have made joint-heirs" Page 12.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. Page 13.



Following is an edited, updated, and enlarged edition of a report we first published in 1986 in *O Timothy* magazine.

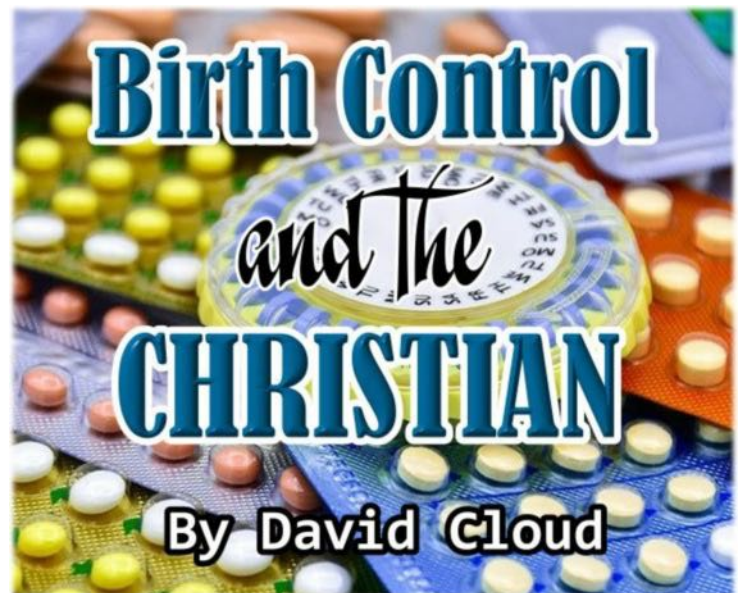
BIRTH CONTROL METHODS CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT USE

In many aspects, family planning is something that each couple must decide alone before God. At the same time, there are forms of birth control that are clearly forbidden by Scripture and therefore a Christian is not free to use.

ABORTION IS NOT A PROPER METHOD OF BIRTH CONTROL

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? YEA..." (Isaiah 49:15).

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves,



covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, WITHOUT NATURAL AFFECTION, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

It is strange that in speaking to Christians about family planning, we would have to deal with the matter of abortion being morally wrong. But the fact is that many large Christian denominations today support "pro-choice." Many Christian leaders are not giving a sure warning against this great evil. In fact, some who call themselves "evangelical" are beginning to support abortion in some cases. For example, InterVarsity Press published a book in 1985 called *Brave New People* by Gareth Jones. Consider some excerpts from this book--

"If abortion is contemplated, a reasonable decision will take into account the fetus, and also the parents and siblings" (p. 157).

"In this instance it has to be decided whether abortion will benefit the fetus" (p. 158).

"No biblical passage speaks of humans possessing personhood before birth" (p. 169).

"I am prepared to admit there may be circumstances where, very regretfully, even Christians may have to contemplate an abortion" (p. 173).

"Unfortunately, some families cannot cope with such a challenge, and a compromise must be reluctantly adopted,

namely, termination of the pregnancy [abortion] ... God's love for the weak ... requires comparable concern for the abnormal and for those likely to be rejected by society" (p. 179).

Because of outside pressure, InterVarsity stopped distributing the book, but it was published by another Christian publisher, Eerdmans, and was supported by many who claim to be evangelical Christians.

LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

For the Bible-believer there can be no doubt on this issue. Scripture tells us that human life begins at conception. The moment the sperm unites with the egg and conception occurs, a brand new human life has begun. Many say it is not possible to know exactly when the embryo becomes fully human; thus it should not be called a child. The Bible leaves no such confusion. Consider the following:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5).

In Psalm 51 David is showing his repentance for the adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. In verse five he acknowledges that he was sinful from the moment of conception. This is reaffirmed by the Apostle Paul in Romans 5:12--"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God, their fallen nature has been passed on from generation to generation through the father's seed.

But notice that David spoke of himself in a personal way even when considering his conception. He said I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me. It was David himself who was conceived. He makes the same statement in Psalm 139 -

"Thou has covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:13-16).

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For Bible-believers, this amazing passage leaves no question whatsoever regarding whether or not an embryo is a real human child.

The writer, David, says that it was God that formed him in the womb of his mother and that God knew all about him even while he was growing from conception--before his little heart started beating at three weeks after conception, before the little buds of arms and legs appeared at four weeks after conception, before his little brain divided into two sections at five weeks after conception, before his eyes took shape at six weeks after conception--"when as yet there was none of them," God knew him. The impregnated egg in the womb of David's mother's was only a tiny, microscopic thing, but that impregnated egg was known by God as David, the future king of Israel and great-great-grandfather of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible plainly states that God is in control of conception.

"And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived" (Ge. 25:19).

See also Ge. 4:1, 25; 20:18; 29:31; 30:22; 1 Sa. 1:5, 19-20; Ps. 127:3; 139:13-16.

Life is of God and it begins at conception. Thus, when an impregnated egg is cut off in some way so that it dies, the death of a distinct individual human being has taken place. If someone takes a knife or a poison and ends the life of an individual, it is murder. If the murderer argues that the one he has killed would die anyway, or that people die every day so we should not be so concerned, his argument would not be acceptable. He has murdered a human being and will be punished. Likewise, if someone stops the growth of a tiny embryo though a knife or drugs or some other way, that person has killed an individual already known by God.

"If men strive, and hurt a woman with CHILD, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe" (Exodus 21:22-25).

Note that the Bible says the woman's unborn fruit is a CHILD. God calls it a child, and if that unborn child is hurt, God required that the one who caused the hurt to be punished.

"As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with CHILD: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all" (Ecclesiastes 11:5).

Again, the Bible says the tiny, unborn creature growing in the womb of a woman is a CHILD. It is not a blob of protoplasm, or a *thing*. It is a child even while it is being formed.

"Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name ... And now, saith the Lord that formed me from the womb to be his servant..." (Isaiah 49:1, 5).

"Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:4, 5).

The passage in Isaiah refers prophetically to the Lord Jesus Christ, and possibly also refers to Isaiah himself. The similar passage in Jeremiah speaks of the prophet's relationship with God before his birth. Notice, again, that God called them even before they were born, and it was God who formed them in the womb of their mothers.

Those who interfere with the process of growth after conception are interfering with God's work of forming a human being that is known of God. This is a very serious matter.

If we asked Isaiah's mother or Jeremiah's mother what was in their wombs, they would have answered, had they known the prophecies which were to follow, "This is Isaiah"; "This is Jeremiah."

Regarding the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible leaves no question. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with CHILD of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:18). Later the angel told Joseph that the child's name would be Jesus and "that which is

CONCEIVED in her is of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:20,21).

As soon as Mary conceived her firstborn son by the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit, He was called a CHILD. And this was at the very earliest stages of the process of growth in the womb.

"... and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb" (Luke 1:15).

It is true that John the Baptist was no ordinary child, but the fact that he was filled with the Holy Ghost before his birth proves clearly that he was fully a human being. If anyone had aborted that little being in Elisabeth's womb, he would have been the murderer of John the Baptist.

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the BABE leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost" (Luke 1:41).

From this passage of Scripture we learn what medical doctors are discovering--that the unborn infant is aware of things outside the womb and responds to them. In this case, the unborn baby was John the Baptist. He was already filled with the Holy Spirit, and he knew of the situation that was happening outside the womb when the mother of his Lord and Savior met his own mother, Elisabeth. Notice, too, that the unborn one here is called a BABE.

With these Scripture references before us, we have but two choices: we can reject the Bible and its teaching, or we can acknowledge that the fertilized egg is a tiny human being, known by God, and the mysterious and marvelous growth that occurs during its nine months in the womb is the direct process of God working to form that baby according to His own plan and purpose.

Any time, therefore, someone purposefully cuts off the growth of an embryo he is committing murder.

BIRTH CONTROL PILLS AND IUDS ARE NOT PROPER METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL

Having considered abstinence and abortion, there are yet some other birth control methods which, when considered in light of the Bible's teaching, are forbidden to Christians. **In brief, any method of birth control that cuts off the growth of the already fertilized egg is a**

form of abortion and is therefore murder. We have seen that according to God's Word the human life begins at conception--at the moment when the male sperm joins with the mother's egg. At that time a new and unique human life begins its eternal journey, having become a living soul through the mysterious operation of Almighty God. Not all modern scientists would agree that the newly conceived embryo is a human being at that point, but all agree that it is a new and unique life that has begun its explosive growth toward full development.

In *The Position of Modern Science on the Beginning of Human Life* (copyright 1975, Scientists for Life) we read the following simple and clear explanation on page 15--

"'When did your life begin?' The answer to this question can be phrased simply by going backward in time. Before you were an adult, you were an adolescent, and before that a child, and before that an infant. Before you were an infant--i.e., before you were born--you were a fetus, and before that an embryo. Before you were an embryo, around the time of your implantation, you were a blastocyst, and before that a morula, and before that a zygote or fertilized ovum. However, you were never a sperm or an unfertilized ovum. **Therefore, while life is continuous, your life began when the nucleus of your father's sperm fused with the nucleus of your mother's ovum, or at fertilization.**"

Because of newly discovered methods of research such as the electron microscope, scientists can observe the tiny cells and genes that make up a living body. They have actually observed the formation of the human beginning from the time the genes of the mother and father are united. Consider the following description of what happens during the first few weeks after conception:

"In the [first seven weeks] the cells perform their most intricate maneuvers, arranging into patterns that give the embryo its human form. Toward the end of the third week a gutterlike groove in the back folds into a neural tube--the future nervous system. As the tube closes, the brain takes shape, already differentiating into hind-, mid- and forebrain. The five-week embryo, **ONLY ONE-THIRD OF AN INCH LONG**, is a marvel of miniaturization: limb buds are sending out shoots whose dimples mark the nascent [beginning to form] hands and feet, and the hindbrain has grown stalked eye cups. By the seventh and eighth weeks, the embryo's face looks human, limbs hinge on joints, hands splay into fingers

and primitive external genitals appear ... After eight weeks almost all of the internal organs are in place and the embryo, **SCARCELY AN INCH LONG**, looks like a tiny person. At this point [eight weeks after conception!], 95 percent of the known structures, features and organs, from tiny nerves to fingers and muscles, are there,' says Dr. Ronan O'Rahilly, an embryologist at the University of California at Davis" (*Newsweek*, Jan. 11, 1982, p. 37).

THREE STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

To understand birth control methods, it is important to know something about the process whereby the mother's egg is fertilized and grows into a fully developed child.

The process can be divided into three stages--1) Fertilization, 2) Implantation, 3) Growth.

In **FERTILIZATION**, the father's sperm penetrates the mother's egg. This happens in the mother's uterine tube near the womb. It is at that point that the genes of the mother and father are joined to make the new human life of their offspring. At this stage the developing child is called in medical terms a "ZYGOTE," which is a Greek word meaning "yoked together."

Next the tiny, growing person continues its travel to the uterus where it becomes attached to the uterine wall. This is **IMPLANTATION** and occurs between day 5 and 8 and is completed by day 9 or 10 (*The Merck Manual*, fourteenth edition, p. 1708).

The developing child is now called an "EMBRYO," which is from a Greek word meaning "to swell." That's a very good term, because the cells of this newly created little being are multiplying at a breathtaking rate. For a very short time the developing embryo draws its sustenance directly from the uterus until the placenta and umbilical cord are developed.

After this, nothing is left but **GROWTH** as the baby's body rapidly forms. After approximately eight weeks the child is called by the medical term "FETUS," which is from the Latin word meaning "offspring."

The "incredibly intricate and beautiful process of conception" is described by a medical doctor as follows. By any standard, it is a miracle.

"First, there is the ovary, deep within the body, that, propelled by some unknown force, turns once a month towards the funnel-like opening at the end of the fallopian tube. On the surface of the ovary is a tiny bubble, a blister, that contains the one egg that alone, for some mysterious reason, has emerged from a field of 250,000 to ripen that month.

"Suddenly the bubble bursts. Triggered by a surge of luteinizing hormone, an eloquent chemical messenger from the brain, the ovary contracts sharply and the ripe egg bursts forth. The fringed projections at the end of the fallopian tube reach out like fingers to grasp the ovum [egg] and draw it into the narrow tunnel of the tube. In a dreamlike, slow-motion ballet, thousands of tiny, undulating cilia caress the ripening egg and gently move it along on its four-inch, four-day journey to the womb.

"Guided by a direction-finding mechanism whose nature we can only guess at, the sperm swim up past the barrier of the cervix, into the womb itself. They must then navigate the entire length of the uterus and swim into the narrow upper reaches of the dark fallopian tube to meet and fertilize the egg.

"The process is precisely orchestrated, the co-ordination of the myriad of biologic details staggeringly complex. It is, for instance, only at this time of the month that mucus produced by her cervix will allow sperm to pass through the cervix and into the womb. At other times of the month, the molecules of the mucus form a crosshatched pattern to block the sperm lest they reach an egg too young or too old to be properly fertilized, thus producing a deformed baby. At the right moment, though, the molecules of the mucus realign themselves, forming microscopic tunnels to aid the sperm on their journey.

"The biochemical communications system that orchestrates all this is so sophisticated that it makes the technology of beaming planetwide transmissions off orbiting satellites look like child's play. When the sperm finally meet the egg, they secrete a series of enzymes that soften the outer shell of the egg and make it permeable. Meanwhile, other chemicals secreted in the tube have completed the ripening of the egg so it is ready to accept the sperm that has managed to permeate the outer shell. The sperm and ovum lock genetic arms, a mating of a still more complex biochemistry, and the mingled DNA and RNA of the mother and father create a blueprint from which a unique human being will grow.

"Once fertilized, the egg completes its journey down into the uterus. The uterus, notified of the impending pregnancy through an elaborate chemical communications system, has grown thick and rich" (*Woman/Doctor: The Education of Jane Patterson, M.D.*, New York: Avon Books, 1983).

We repeat, any process whereby man intervenes to stop the growth of the fertilized egg, which is already a newly-created, unique human being, is abortion. If the fertilized egg, the zygote in scientific terms, is not allowed to implant in the uterus, it is being killed. The only difference between this and a later abortion is the size and stage of development of the tiny human being.

BIRTH CONTROL METHODS THAT RESULT IN ABORTION

Many of our readers will probably be thinking, as we did before we began this research, that birth control pills and similar devices act to PROHIBIT fertilization. Actually, as we will see, birth control pills have the potential to produce an abortion AFTER fertilization.

The IUD, birth control pills, and the anti-progesterone pill are abortion devices, since they sometimes allow conception but prohibit implantation, thereby acting to destroy the already-living, rapidly-developing, microscopic embryo.

In an article entitled "Contraceptives: On Hold" in the May 5, 1986, issue of *Newsweek*, several types of birth control devices were discussed which were still in the development stage. After describing one drug that blocks the preparation of the uterus for the implantation of an already fertilized egg, this statement was made: "Many experts believe that the present anti-abortion climate would make it an unlikely prospect for the U.S. market, SINCE, IN EFFECT, IT INDUCES AN ABORTION."

That birth control drugs can produce early abortions of the newly fertilized egg is therefore a fact known and acknowledged by those who understand how the drugs work. Yet these facts are not widely known outside of medical circles. It is hoped that the following will receive a wide hearing.

The following shocking material was published by Lutherans for Life. The medical facts are written by J.C.

Willke, M.D., Chairman of the National Right to Life Committee in America.

The I.U.D.

The following is from Lutherans for Life, *The Christian News*, Jan. 13, 1986:

"What is the mechanism of action of the IUD? It would seem at this time that medical opinion has crystallized to a near unanimity. The presence of this foreign body within the cavity of the uterus produces a foreign body reaction. This is a local, sterile (usually), inflammatory reaction, which alters the normal body fluids within the uterus. ... This unfriendly fluid environment can have an influence on the sperm migrating into the uterus and tubes, and **quite clearly does have an influence on later implantation.** ...

"A substantial number of sperm do pass through the uterine cavity, proceed out to the ovary, and FERTILIZATION CAN AND DOES OCCUR.

"What is quite plain is that, following fertilization, the process does not proceed to a normally implanted pregnancy. What are the mechanisms postulated as to why she does not 'get pregnant'? Overwhelmingly, almost all medical studies have demonstrated various mechanisms that prevent implantation into the nutrient lining of the womb, due to the foreign body and inflammatory reaction caused by the IUD. THE END RESULT, HOWEVER, IN ALMOST EVERY CASE, WHEN FERTILIZATION DOES occur (an occasional pregnancy is carried to full term and delivery with the IUD still in the uterus), IT IS FOLLOWED BY A PROCESS THAT ENDS IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DEVELOPING NEW HUMAN IN THE UTERUS THROUGH HIS OR HER INABILITY TO IMPLANT. THIS CAN BE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS AN ABORTION. CLEARLY, ALMOST ALL CURRENT EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT THE IUD'S MAJOR EFFECT IS TO ACT TO PREVENT IMPLANTATION.

"The fact that it is described as a 'contraceptive' agent is because of a change in the meaning of words by the Food and Drug Administration and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology a decade ago, when they redefined the word 'conception' to mean implantation. Under these semantic gymnastics it is a

‘contraceptive,’ but everyone familiar with the function understands thoroughly that its action is that of an abortifacient.”

THE PILL

The following is from Lutherans for Life, *The Christian News*, Jan. 13, 1986:

“The ‘pill’ consists of over 30 different varieties of chemical combinations of the synthetic equivalent of the female hormones estrogen and progesterone, as well as the so-called ‘mini-pill’ which contains progesterone alone. Understanding that there are different degrees of actions with different pills, that one has more of this effect and the other has more of that effect, they can, to some extent at least, be described generically.

“The combination pills basically exert three actions in ‘preventing’ pregnancy. The first effect of the contraceptive pill is to prevent ovulation or release of the ovum from the ovary. This has been described as ‘freezing’ of the ovary. Even if the sperm do reach the ovary, fertilization cannot occur because the ovum has not been released. This action is accurately described as temporary sterilization, but in common usage it is usually spoken of as ‘contraceptive’ action.

“The first contraceptive pill, Enovid, contained ten milligrams of estrogen-like hormone. It was believed that its physiological function was almost totally that of temporary sterilization. Enovid-5 was then marketed, to be followed by Enovid E (2.5 mg.). Since that time lower and lower doses of estrogen have been presented to the consumer so that now doses of 0.5 mgm. and 0.35 mgm. are commonly used.

“The well known reason for the reduction of the estrogen dosage was to try to minimize the threat of blood clot complications.

“Paralleling the reduction of the estrogen dosage, however, there has been the development of breakthrough ovulation, as the lower doses have apparently not been successful in completely suppressing ovulation.

“WITH BREAKTHROUGH OVULATION IT IS NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT ACTUAL FERTILIZATION OCCURS AT TIMES IN THOSE

TAKING THESE PILLS, but as described below, these women do not ordinarily ‘get pregnant.’ [This means the fertilized egg is not allowed to become implanted in the mother’s uterus; it is killed.]

“The second action is one of thickening of the mucous plug at the cervical opening. This normally happens at the beginning and at the end of a menstrual cycle, with the plug melting away at mid-cycle, and being replaced by an egg white-like substance containing nutrient fluids, which are ‘friendly’ to the passage of sperm. The combination pill prevents this from occurring at mid-cycle, maintaining the plug, and as such probably exerts true ‘anti-fertilization’ action by preventing entrance of the sperm.

“THE THIRD FUNCTION OF THE COMBINATION PILL IS ANTI-IMPLANTATION OR ANTI-NIDATORY. When this is the function that is dominant in the particular month, there is sperm passage, there is fertilization and migration of the new human through the tube and into the uterus, but implantation does not occur. This is because **THE ACTION OF THE PILL HAS ‘HARDENED’ THE LINING OF THE UTERUS, CREATED A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE MULTICELLED TINY HUMAN BEING CANNOT IMPLANT. THIS FUNCTION IS ONE OF AN ABORTION AT ONE WEEK OF LIFE.**

“There is no definitive medical agreement as to what percentage of times this function occurs, in which women and with which pill” (*The Christian News*, Jan. 13, 1986).

The following 2023 report from Human Life International states the same facts:

“Over the past half-century, three general classes of birth control drugs have been manufactured in the United States and other countries--the high-dose pill, the combination pill and the progestin-only ‘minipill.’

“The old high-dosage drugs were rarely abortifacient in their modes of action. They mostly worked by thickening cervical mucus and inhibiting ovulation. Sometimes, however, breakthrough ovulation occurred, and so the older drugs were occasionally abortifacient in their actions.

“Eventually the older ‘high-dose’ drugs gave way to the new ‘low-dose’ drugs. Ortho/Johnson & Johnson, G.D. Searle/Monsanto, and Syntex, the three largest manufacturers of abortifacient birth controls in the United

States, voluntarily withdrew their ‘high-dose’ products from the U.S. market in 1988 on the advice of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These were among the last commercially-available pills in the United States containing more than 50 micrograms of estrogen.

Each of the newer low-dose pills has between 50 and 3,000 micrograms of a variety of compounds containing progestin and between 10 and 50 micrograms of artificial estrogen in the form of ethinyl estradiol or mestranol. This is a tremendous drop in estrogenic potency compared to the high-dose drugs.

“The newer low-dosage combination and progestin-only pills have three modes of action:

- The first of the three modes of action is the **suppression of ovulation**. When a woman ingests birth control drugs, they hijack her reproductive system. Her body is hormonally ‘tricked’ into acting as if it is continuously pregnant. During those months that ovulation is suppressed, the mode of action is contraceptive (not abortifacient) in nature.
- The second mode of action is also contraceptive in nature. The drugs cause **changes in the consistency and acidity of cervical mucus**, making it more difficult for sperm to penetrate and live in the cervix.
- THE THIRD MODE OF ACTION IS ABORTIFACIENT. The pills cause **changes in the endometrium** (lining of the uterus), making implantation more difficult. It transforms the endometrium from a welcoming, lush forest into a barren, sterile desert. IN A CYCLE WHERE OVULATION WAS NOT PREVENTED AND FERTILIZATION TAKES PLACE, IT CAUSES A ‘SILENT ABORTION.’

“Indeed, even the Guttmacher Institute (the former research arm of Planned Parenthood) admitted that contraceptives can prevent implantation of a fertilized egg. Conveniently, they claim that pregnancy only occurs once implantation begins, instead of when a unique DNA code and living creature is created at fertilization. But this doesn’t make sense. Why would pregnancy only begin once the newly created child arrives in a specific place (e.g., in the uterus versus the ovary), rather than when the child is actually created?

“THERE ARE NOW MORE THAN 200 BRANDS AND VARIETIES OF PROGESTIN/ESTROGEN PILLS ON

THE MARKET. ALL OF THEM--FROM ALESSE TO ZOVI--SOMETIMES PREVENT IMPLANTATION OF THE DEVELOPING HUMAN BEING. The low-dose pill works in essentially the same manner as the old high-dose pill. However, a much higher percentage of ovulation occurs in women who use the low-dose drugs due to their lower estrogen dose. **This means that all of the newer oral ‘contraceptive’ drugs act as abortifacients at least part of the time.**

“Thus, women who use these drugs frequently conceive. In order to prevent the continuation of pregnancies in these cases, the low-dose drugs also prevent implantation, thereby acting as back-up abortifacients.

“Several studies have shown that women on the low-dose pills experience an early ‘silent abortion’ during a wide range of 2% to 65% of their cycles, depending upon the formulation used” (Brian Clowes, PhD, and Marisa Cantu, “Birth Control: Is the Pill an Abortifacient?” Human Life International, Oct. 24, 2023).

THE MORNING AFTER PILL

“DES or Diethylstilbestrol is a synthetic estrogen. Given in high dosage, in the days immediately following intercourse, it is known as the morning after pill. What is its function? This is best illustrated by giving two examples.

“In the first, a woman is raped at midnight Saturday and is given DES at 2 a.m. in a hospital emergency room. Within a few hours there is a high level of estrogen in her blood. Her body was programmed to ovulate 24 hours later at midnight Sunday. The high level of estrogen blocks that ovulation, fertilization does not occur, and she does not get pregnant. This effect is one of temporary sterilization.

“In the second case, rape also occurs at midnight Saturday and the medication is given at 2 a.m.. This woman, however, has ovulated several hours before the rape. The ovum awaited. It was fertilized. She also does not ‘get pregnant’ but the mechanism of action is quite different. The drug had ‘hardened’ the lining of the womb. THE MULTICELLED TINY BOY OR GIRL, AT ABOUT ONE WEEK OF LIFE, COULD NOT IMPLANT AND DIED. THIS MECHANISM WAS AN ABORTION.

“Which mechanism occurs in any specific case may well not be known, but THE STERILIZING ACTION WILL PROBABLY OCCUR TWO OR THREE TIMES FOR EVERY ABORTIVE ACTION.

“Other medications, such as a shot of progesterone are often used in place of DES, as well as other forms of estrogen. Without going into detail one can say that their mechanism of action is substantially the same” (Lutherans for Life, *The Christian News*, Jan. 13, 1986).

PROSTAGLANDINS

“As is well known, these substances cause the onset of strong uterine contractions and delivery of whatever size baby the uterus contains. If used before viability [before the baby is able to live outside the womb], this is the equivalent of abortion.

“The first form licensed, Prostin F2 alpha, carried a directive from the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] that limited its use to the induction of mid-trimester abortion only. Subsequently, Prostin A2 and 15M have been licensed. These have now been authorized for use for several therapeutic medical conditions (uterine inertia, non-malignant Hyatidaform mole and missed abortion). [This study was reviewed before publication by Matthew Bulfin, M.D.; Thomas Hilgers, M.D.; and Richard Schmidt, M.D.]” (*The Christian News*, Jan. 13, 1986).

The fact that modern birth control pills can and at times do function as an abortifacient (although they will often use words other than abortifacient) is admitted by The Food and Drug Administration, by medical books such as *Physicians' Desk Reference* (PDR) and *Nursing '85 Handbook*; by pro-abortion books such as *My Body, My Health* by Felicia Stewart, M.D; by pro-abortion groups such as Planned Parenthood; by drug companies in the literature which accompanies the pill, and by some non-medical reference books such as *Random House College Dictionary*.

Quotes from these sources follow:

"How the IUD prevents pregnancy is not completely understood. Several theories have been suggested. IUD's seem to INTERFERE IN SOME MANNER WITH THE IMPLANTATION OF THE FERTILIZED EGG in the

uterine cavity. The IUD does not prevent ovulation" (*The Federal Register*, Part III, May 10, 1977, Department of Health, Education and Welfare--Food and Drug Administration, "Intrauterine Devices," p. 23781).

In describing the mechanism of Parke-Davis' Norlestrin family of birth control pills we read this notice in the *Physician's Desk Reference* (PDR):

"Although the primary mechanism of action is inhibition of ovulation, alterations in the genital tract, including changes in the cervical mucus (which increase the difficulty of sperm penetration) and the endometrium (WHICH REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF IMPLANTATION) MAY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO CONTRACEPTIVE EFFECTIVENESS" (*Physician's Desk Reference*, Medical Economics Company, copyright 1985, p. 1548).

This same notice is given for the Lo/Ovral and Nordette family of birth control pills marketed by the Wyeth company (PDR, pages. 2255 and 2266).

"Progestogen ... also causes endometrial changes that PREVENT IMPLANTATION OF THE FERTILIZED OVUM" (*Nursing '85 Drug Handbook*, Spring House Corporation, 1985).

"In a natural cycle, the uterus lining thickens under the influence of estrogen during the first part of the cycle, and then matures under the influence of both progesterone and estrogen after ovulation. This development sequence is not possible during a pill cycle because both progestin and estrogen are present throughout the cycle. EVEN IF OVULATION AND CONCEPTION DID OCCUR, SUCCESSFUL IMPLANTATION WOULD BE UNLIKELY" (Felicia Stewart, M.D.; Felicia Guest; Gary Stewart, M.D. and Robert Hatcher, M.D.; *My Body, My Health*, Consumers Union, pgs. 169,170).

"The endometrium (uterine wall) is definitely affected by oral contraception ... THE CHANGE MAY PREVENT IMPLANTATION OF THE BLASTOCYST [the fertilized egg, the newly created offspring]" (Planned Parenthood, Grant Application submitted on September 1, 1982).

"For example, THE PILL MAY AFFECT THE MOVEMENT OF THE FERTILIZED EGG TOWARD THE UTERUS OR PREVENT IT FROM IMBEDDING

ITSELF IN THE UTERINE LINING" (*Changing Times*, "What We Know About the Pill," July 1977, p. 21).

"Birth control pill: an oral contraceptive for women that INHIBITS ovulation, fertilization, or IMPLANTATION OF A FERTILIZED OVUM, causing temporary infertility" (*Random House College Dictionary*, revised edition, copyright 1982, p. 137).

HOW OFTEN DOES THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL CAUSE AN ABORTION?

In light of these facts, one question many people immediately ask is, "How often, granted that every type of modern birth control pill can and sometimes will function as an abortifacient, how often do they function that way? Is it 10% of the time? Is it .00001% of the time? Is it a percentage which is high enough to be significant in my attitude toward the pill?"

Absolute percentages are impossible to obtain. There are too many variables. Yet doctors and scientists are able to obtain realistic estimates from their research. Here are some figures:

1. Planned Parenthood in their grant application state that the hormones in the mini-pill "prevent ovulation and corpusluteum formation in approximately 1/3 of the cycles." That means that 67% OF THE TIME WOMEN USING THE MINI-PILL HAVE A REAL POSSIBILITY OF A "SILENT ABORTION" ON ANY GIVEN MONTH.

2. Albert D. Lorincz, M.D. in *The Pill--How Does It Work?* cites a study in which 1200 women were given .5 mg daily of progestogen (an amount equivalent to many birth control pills). Yet 60% of these women ovulated. That means that 60% OF THE WOMEN ON THIS PILL HAD A REAL POSSIBILITY OF A "SILENT ABORTION" ON ANY GIVEN MONTH.

3. J.C. Espinoza, M.D., writes in his book *Birth Control: Why Are They Lying to Women?* page 27:

"When ovulation occurs, pregnancy is possible. Years ago Roland noticed ovulation in 30% of the women taking an estrogen-progestin preparation (combined Pill). TODAY IT IS CLEAR THAT IN AT LEAST 5% OF THE CYCLES OF WOMEN ON THE COMBINED PILL 'ESCAPE OVULATION' OCCURS. THIS FACT MEANS THAT CONCEPTION IS POSSIBLE DURING

THOSE CYCLES, BUT IMPLANTATION WILL BE PREVENTED AND THE 'CONCEPTUS' (CHILD) WILL DIE. THAT RATE IS STATISTICALLY EQUIVALENT TO ONE ABORTION EVERY OTHER YEAR FOR ALL WOMEN ON THE PILL. Mini-Pills have a much higher ovulation rate. Pituitary block to prevent ovulation is evident in only 50% of the cycles. Conception, then, is possible every other month. THIS NEW PILL MAY PRODUCE ABORTION 50% OF THE TIME--six for every year of use. The very low dose progestin-only Pill may never prevent ovulation. With any pill there are a small percentage of pregnancies that go to full term."

The evidence is clear that every modern birth control pill can and at times does function as an abortifacient. The IUD works strictly as an abortifacient.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'VE BEEN ON THE PILL OR IUD?

Your heart may be troubled right now. You may have been using the IUD or modern birth control pills without realizing that they could be abortive. You probably are asking yourself, "Could I have had a silent abortion? Or even several of them? Could I have ended the life of a child which God intended me to have?"

The answer, of course, is that only God knows. It is a definite possibility that you have had a silent abortion, if not several. Nowhere in Scripture does God promise to keep us from committing sins in ignorance.

At this juncture we can praise the Lord for His great mercy. The Scriptures promise, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Also, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

BIRTH CONTROL METHODS WHICH DO NOT DESTROY A NEW LIFE

We have said that any form of birth control which destroys a life that has been created through the binding of the male and female genes is wrong because it is a form of abortion. It can be called "silent abortion," or "microscopic abortion," or any other term, but it is still

abortion and as such is a breaking of the fifth commandment--"Thou shalt not kill."

The question remains: Are there any proper methods of birth control which Christians can practice? Is it contrary to the will of God for Christian couples to try to prevent pregnancies?

The first question can be answered much easier than the second. There are methods of birth control which do actually keep the sperm and the egg from uniting and therefore do not involve the destruction of life. We will list these, and for more detailed information a couple can contact their doctor or qualified books on this subject:

1. THE CONDOM. Used by the husband, these are readily available in most areas, are inexpensive and are effective when used properly.

2. VAGINAL FOAMS, CREAMS, AND SUPPOSITORIES. These are used by the wife and are also quite effective when used properly. They immobilize or kill the sperm and in some cases provide a mechanical barrier to the sperm. According to *The Merck Manual*, "As the woman's age increases, the effectiveness of these agents increases greatly and, in women over age 30, is similar [in effectiveness] to that of the IUD."

3. DIAPHRAGM. This is a device which is used by the wife and blocks the sperm from entering the cervix. It "must be carefully fitted by a physician, and the woman must know how to insert it so that the cervix is covered ... Contraceptive cream or jelly should be used with the diaphragm..."

4. RHYTHM. "For the rhythm method to be successful, the woman's menstrual cycles should be regular. To determine the period of abstention, 18 days should be subtracted from the length of the shortest of the previous 12 cycles and 11 days from the longest. Thus, if the woman's cycles vary between 26 and 29 days, the couple must abstain from ... day 8 through day 18 of each cycle. A more effective method is based on measuring the woman's basal body temperature each morning before arising ... Even with this refinement of technique, the failure rate of the rhythm method is estimated to be about 7%; without the use of temperature recording, the failure rate is several times higher" (*The Merck Manual*, fourteenth edition, pp. 1699, 1700).

5. STERILIZATION. It is very difficult to reverse the effects of the sterilization operation, and it is said that such reversals are effective only 30% of the time (*The Merck Manual*, p. 1705). Therefore, this decision should be considered permanent.

Since it is impossible for us to know what the future holds, it doesn't seem that sterilization is a wise thing for an individual or couple to do. What if my mate dies and I desire at a later date to have more children? What if something happens to some or all of our children? Sterilization means there is very little possibility that we could have more children.

We are not saying these methods are either proper or improper for the Christian. We have listed them merely because they are methods of birth control whereby the egg is not fertilized and therefore a newly conceived life is not destroyed.

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."
(Psalm 139:13-16)

Joint-Heir With Christ

By David Cloud

The following is excerpted from *The Way of Life Commentary Series, Romans*, www.wayoflife.org –

The sons of God are joint-heirs with Christ (Ro. 8:17).

- This is a truth that is almost beyond comprehension at present, but God wants us to begin understanding it now, and He has revealed much to us. “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God” (1 Co. 2:9).

- We are joint-heirs by adoption, which is the subject of the previous verses (Ro. 8:15-17).

- To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we must consider who has been made joint-heirs. It is lowly sinners, unclean, condemned and cursed, rebels, outcasts, having no hope and without God in this world, living in a fallen world, headed toward an eternity of judgment. Yet these are the ones who have made joint-heirs. To be a joint-heir with Christ is something like a dirty, poverty-stricken child being adopted by the world’s richest man, but in truth, that is as nothing compared to a sinner becoming a joint-heir with Christ.

- To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we can think of with whom we are joint-heirs. It is to be joint-heir with the One who is the image of the invisible God, whose name is Immanuel, the mighty God, by whom all things were created, who is before all things, and by whom all things consist, who sits at the right hand of God, who has a name above every name, who in all things has the preeminence, who has all authority in heaven and in earth, under whose feet are all things. We are joint-heirs with Him who is heir of all things (Heb. 1:2). There is nothing that Christ has not inherited, nothing He does not own, nothing He is not Head of, nothing He is not Lord of, nothing He is not judge of, nothing He cannot dispense of as He pleases. Nothing exists now or ever will exist that is not part of Christ’s inheritance from the eternal Father. We are joint-heirs with Him who made the worlds (Heb. 1:2). We are joint-heirs with Him for whom nothing is impossible (Lu. 1:37). When I was little I dreamed sometimes of being the son of a rich man, but the richest man in this world is a pauper compared to Christ. If Bill Gates adopted you, that would be as nothing compared with being adopted by God in Christ.

- To understand the glory of being a joint-heir, we can think of what being a joint-heir consists. It is to know Him as Bridegroom, to live in His glorious kingdom, to rule and reign with Him, to be the eternal trophy of His grace. It is to be like Christ (1 Jo. 3:2), to have an immortal, incorruptible body like Christ’s (1 Co. 15:53-54; Php. 3:21). It is paradise (Re. 2:7), mansions and ivory palaces (Ps. 45:8; Joh. 14:2), garments that smell of myrrh and aloes and cassia (Ps. 45:8), clothing of wrought gold and raiment of needlework (Ps. 45:13-14), flying white horses (Re. 19:14), thrones of glory (Mt. 19:28), and crowns of glory (1 Pe. 5:4). It is eternal life in the New Jerusalem, a holy city 1,600 miles cube, a city of pure gold, like unto clear glass, with light like unto a stone most precious, even a jasper stone, clear as crystal, with walls of jasper, whose foundations are garnished with all manner of precious stones, and gates of pearl (Re. 21:9-27). It is streets of pure gold, as it were transparent glass (Re. 21:21), the tree of life growing alongside of the river of life (Re. 22:1-2). It is everlasting joy (Isa. 35:10), and eternal singing (Ps. 33:3; 96:1; 100:1-5; 149:1; Isa. 42:10; Re. 5:9; 14:2-3), and no more death, or sorrow, or crying or pain (Re. 21:4), and eternal holiness untainted by sin (Re. 21:27). It is seeing the face of the Lamb and serving Him (Re. 22:3-4).

- To be a joint-heir with Christ is described in many passages, such as the following: “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Mt. 13:43); “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them” (Joh. 17:22); “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me” (Joh. 17:24); “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Co. 15:53); “a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Co. 4:17); “the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints” (Eph. 1:18); “Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body” (Php. 3:21); “then shall ye also appear with him in glory” (Col. 3:4); “When he shall come to be glorified in his saints” (2 Th. 1:10); “ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Pe. 5:4); “when he shall appear, we shall be like him” (1 Jo. 3:2); “to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 1:24), “he that overcometh shall inherit all things” (Re. 21:17).

(For more on the believer’s inheritance, see the commentary on 1 Peter 1:4, [Way of Life Commentary Series, General Epistles](http://www.wayoflife.org).)

DIGGING IN THE WALLS

God commanded the prophet Ezekiel to dig in the walls of Israel's temple and observe the evils being done in secret by apostate religious leaders of that day. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall ... And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw. ..." (Ezek. 8:7-10).

Ezekiel was then instructed to preach against the errors of the leaders and to tell the people the things he had witnessed.

"Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. ... Then I spake unto them of the captivity all the things that the Lord had shewed me" (Ezek. 11:4,25).

The hour in which we live is very similar to that of Ezekiel's day. Many of those who profess to be the people of God are apostate. It was prophesied in the New Testament Scriptures that such would be the case in the closing hours of our age. This will culminate in the brief worldwide rule of an utterly apostate Harlot "church" (2 Tim. 3-4; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Pet. 2-3; Jude; Rev. 17).

As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



KIRK CAMERON DENIES THE "ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT" OF HELL (Friday Church News Notes, December 19, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

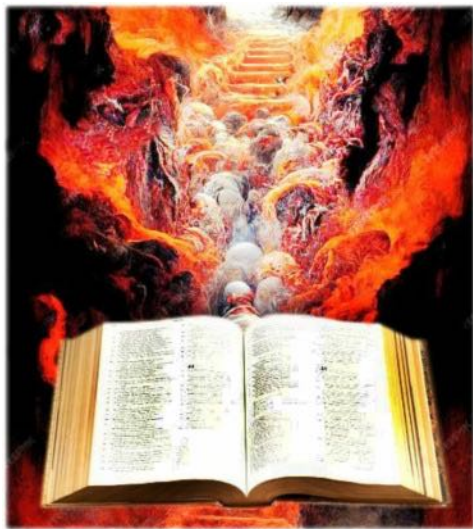
- The following is excerpted from "Kirk Cameron changes stance," *Christian Post*, Dec. 10, 2025: "Actor and podcaster Kirk Cameron stirred up a theological hornet's nest after he revealed he no longer believes in a Hell that includes 'eternal conscious torment.' Cameron, 55, shared his changing views during a Dec. 3 episode of the *Kirk Cameron Show* in which he and his son, James, explored biblical references to Sheol, Hades and Gehenna to 'examine whether God's justice is compatible with endless suffering.' Acknowledging the doctrine of Hell is an 'uncomfortable subject,' Kirk said the topic is a popular point of contention for atheists who characterize it as the 'eternal barbecue for sinners.' 'Jesus died so that we could have eternal life. But do the wicked have eternal life in Hell? And if they do, why does the Old Testament describe the fate of the wicked in the opposite terms?' he asked, pointing to references using words like 'destroy,' 'perish' and 'death' when describing the fate of the wicked." **CONCLUDING**

COMMENT: The eternal suffering of the unsaved is the clear teaching of the Bible rightly divided and has been stated in a great many Protestant and Baptist confessions. On the other hand, cults such as Seventh-day Adventist and Jehovah's Witness have denied it, using the same arguments that Kirk is using. Eternal hell fire is a most frightful thing. In eternal hell we see holiness beyond human comprehension and justice beyond comprehension, just as we see in the cross of Jesus Christ. But the Bible teaches eternal suffering and it must be believed and preached and defended as part of the "faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3). Eternal judgment is what we are saved *from* when we receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour! It is a massive incentive to be saved and to be zealous in proclaiming the gospel! Imagine the first day in hell.

THE BIBLE'S TEACHING ON HELL (Friday Church News Notes, December 19, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- "And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh" (**Isaiah 66:24**). "Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire" (**Matthew 18:8**). "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (**Matthew 25:41**). "And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for

thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:42-48). “the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments” (Luke 16:22-23). “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). “The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the



smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name” (Revelation 14:10-11). “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). For a full study on the Bible’s doctrine of hell we recommend the [Way of Life Encyclopedia of the Bible & Christianity](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org.

EVANGELICALS AND THE DOWNGRADE OF HELL (Friday Church News Notes, December 19, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Compromised, ecumenical, worldly evangelicalism has been moving in the direction of downgrading the doctrine of hell for a long time. In fact, as early as 1865, Charles Spurgeon warned, “There is a deep-seated unbelief among Christians just now, about the eternity of future punishment. It is not outspoken in many cases, but it is whispered; and it frequently assumes the shape of a spirit of benevolent desire that the doctrine may be disproved. ... I am afraid it is the old nature in us putting on the specious garb of charity, which thus leads us to discredit a fact which is as certain as the happiness of believers” (cited by Iain Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon*, 1978 edition, p. 13). In 1996, *Frontline* magazine published Robert Vincent’s “**Hell under Fire**,” which begins with the author’s statement that he had not heard a whole sermon on hell since he was a child. He said further, “Over the



last century and a half, the teaching of endless punishment has evolved into a doctrinal albatross for many evangelicals.” C.S. Lewis, the godfather of evangelicalism, said hell is not a place God sends people who do not believe the gospel, but a state of mind one chooses to possess and become. “And every state of mind, left to itself, every shutting up of the creature within the dungeon of its own mind--is, in the end, Hell” (Lewis, *The Great Divorce*). In 1966, George Ladd, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, told the *Los Angeles Times* that hell will simply “be an eternity outside of fellowship with God.” In 1983, Billy Graham said, “I think people have a hard time believing God is going to allow people to burn in literal fire forever. I think the fire that is mentioned in the Bible is a burning thirst for God that can never be quenched” (*Orlando Sentinel*, Orlando, Florida, April 10, 1983). In 1985, the *Harvard Theological Review* published “**Hell Disappeared and No One Noticed**” by Martin E. Marty. In 1987, Verdict Books published Edward Fudge’s *The Fire That Consumes*, which denies everlasting torment and yet was praised by prominent evangelicals Clark Pinnock and F.F.

Bruce. In 1988, **John R.W. Stott** stated in *A Liberal-Evangelical Dialogue* (InterVarsity Press) that the torment of hell is not eternal in duration. In 1990, the **Radio Bible Class** published **Herbert Vander Lugt's** *What Does the Bible Say about Hell?*, which postulates that the fire of hell might be symbolic. In 1991, **Kenneth Kantzer**, former editor of *Christianity Today* and head of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, said that "when Jesus spoke of flames ... these are most likely figurative warnings" (*U.S. News & World Report*, March 25, 1991). That same year, **J.I. Packer**, prominent Anglican evangelical and former senior editor of *Christianity Today*, said that he does not believe that the essence of hell is "grotesque bodily discomfort." When drawing up a resolution on hell, the **General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (GARBC)** refused to state that there is "literal fire" (D.A. Waite, *Four Reasons for Defending the King James Bible*, 1993, pp. 20, 21). In April 2000, a commission of the **Evangelical Alliance of Britain** published a report entitled *The Nature of Hell*, which states that evangelicals have agreed to disagree about the doctrine of hell. In his 2011 book *Love Wins*, **Rob Bell** said the statements in the Bible about hell being a place of fire and torment are mere poetry.

AUSTRALIA BANS CHILDREN UNDER 16 FROM SOCIAL MEDIA (Friday Church News Notes, December 19, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Australia has become the first country to ban children under 16 from social media. The platforms--Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, X, YouTube, Threads,



Kick, Twitch, Reddit--are required to determine the age of its users. Other services can be added if they are deemed a significant risk. A high court challenge has been launched on the grounds of freedom of political communication, but other nations are considering such a ban. "Australia's clampdown began when the wife of Peter Malinauskas, the leader of South Australia state, read *The Anxious Generation*, a bestseller published last year by social psychologist Jonathan Haidt. The book, in which Haidt argues that children's excessive social media and smartphone use has caused an unprecedented mental health crisis" ("TikTok, Instagram Ban," *Bloomberg*, Dec. 1, 2025). No doubt, a large number of children will find ways around the ban. The fundamental problem is the parents who are not supervising their children and the churches that are not effectively dealing with this issue. We recommend [*The Pornographic Age and Victory in Christ*](#), available from the Course section of www.wayoflife.org and Journey to Victory by David Brady, purityplan.org.

ELON MUSK PREDICTS AI WILL CREATE "UNIVERSAL HIGH INCOME" (Friday Church News Notes, December 26, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Elon Musk, the world's richest

man, speculated in a post on X this month that "there will be no poverty in the future and so no need to save money. There will be universal high income." In May 2024, he said, "In a benign scenario, probably none of us will have a job. There will be universal high income--and not universal basic income--universal high income. There'll be no shortage of goods or services. The question will really be one of meaning, of how--if a computer can do, and the robots can do everything better than you--does your life have meaning?" ("Musk predicts," *Fox Business*, Dec. 17, 2025). Musk is the head of PayPal, Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink, and X (formerly Twitter). His thinking reminds us that regardless of how intelligent and highly placed a man is, he is ignorant of the most fundamental issues of life apart from divine revelation in Scripture. The Bible describes man's future in great detail, and there will be no universal high income and abundance of goods until Christ's kingdom. In fact, the Bible describes a time of trouble greater than any the world has yet experienced, including *billions* dying from war, famine, and pestilence. Christ called it "the great tribulation." See Isaiah 2:8-22; Matthew 15:15-24; Revelation 6, 8, 9, 16. As for meaning in life, it is only found by believing that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life as He said (John 14:6). He is the Creator and sustainer of life. Man's



ORCHID BEHAVIOR (Friday Church News Notes, December 19, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 21, 2025: "There are between 10,000 and 15,000 species of orchids. While you surely are not familiar with all of them, it sounds strange to talk about orchid behavior. This huge variety of orchids offers a multitude of different flower shapes, colors and sizes. Each unique shape, color and size is perfectly suited to the bees, butterflies, bats, moths, flies and birds that are involved in that orchid's pollination. Those orchids that use birds as pollinators have no scent. Instead, they offer the brightest of colors, appealing to the birds' strongest sense. Evolutionists call this 'co-evolution.' However, giving it a name doesn't explain it. How did these orchids know that the bird's strongest sense is sight? And how were these orchids able to perform genetic recombination on themselves so that they could develop their bright colors? No, giving something a scientific-sounding name doesn't make naturalistic claims any more scientific. Or consider the bee orchid. It offers a flower that looks like a female bee. The purpose here is to attract male bees to a position that will load them with pollen. How can it be scientific to suggest that a plant



purposely restructured itself to fool bees into pollinating it? God has purposely made it impossible to explain the creation without Him. He did this not simply so that we would see that He is real. His purpose is much greater. God seeks a personal relationship with you and has made that possible through the saving work of His Son, Jesus Christ, for us. It is to Christ that He would ultimately draw our attention. Ref: Batten, Mary, 'Sex & plants,' *Science Digest*."

independent existence apart from God is a lie that was foisted by Satan in the Garden of Eden. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:20). Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation from the terrible dilemma of sin and consequent eternal judgment. By faith in Jesus Christ, man finds not only true meaning in life, but life itself. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

**AMERICAN PASTORS
TARGETED BY
COORDINATED HATE
CAMPAIGN FOR SUPPORTING
ISRAEL** (Friday Church News Notes, December 26, 2025, www.wayoflife.org,



fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "American Pastors," *Israel365News*, Dec. 12, 2025: "A delegation of more than 1,000 clergy and religious leaders, organized by evangelical leader Mike Evans with the Israeli Foreign Ministry, was met almost immediately with coordinated

harassment on social media. Within 24 hours of their departure, many found their accounts flooded with identical hostile messages and accusations aimed at undermining their support for Israel's defense against Hamas terrorism. This outpouring of online hate illustrates the broader hostility toward open support for Israel that has taken hold in parts of U.S. public discourse in 2025. ... 'No coordinated digital campaign will silence those who stand for truth,' said Mike Evans, founder of the Friends of Zion Museum in Jerusalem ... [T]ens of millions of online users were exposed to misleading narratives circulating around the delegation. ... The following are [some of] the key accusations circulating online ... 1. Israel is committing genocide. 2.

Netanyahu is a war criminal. 3. Israel launched an unprovoked attack on Qatar. 4. Palestine deserves immediate recognition as a state. 5. Palestinians have a legitimate claim to the disputed territories. 6. Israel assassinated Charlie Kirk.” The report “An Army of Christian Watchmen for Israel,” Dec. 28, *Israel365News*, stated: “It was the largest delegation of its kind ever to arrive in Israel, composed of approximately one thousand influential pastors, faith leaders, and opinion-shapers from the United States. Among them were television network owners, leading media figures, and digital influencers with millions of followers, who came to witness Israel’s reality firsthand during this challenging time. ... Dr. Mike Evans, founder of the summit, announced an ambitious goal to bring 10,000 ambassadors over the next 36 months, as part of an international vision to strengthen global support for Israel.”

WHAT ARE BIBLE BELIEVERS TO MAKE OF ISRAEL? (Friday Church News Notes, December 26, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Jews and the nation Israel are the subject of global controversies. The bottom line for the born again child of God is that he must measure these things through the lens of God’s Word. Israel owns that land by divine right (1 Chronicles 16:13-18; Deuteronomy 30:1-5), but Israel today is in rebellion to God and is back in the land in preparation to build the third temple and to make a covenant with the Antichrist according to Daniel 9:27 and other prophecies. Israel is fulfilling Ezekiel 37:1-14. She is back in the land but has no breath (verse 8), meaning she is spiritually dead. Most Jews care nothing for the Word of God, being

atheists and agnostics and humanists and moral perverts (e.g., Tel Aviv’s annual gay rights party), while the religious ones exalt their vain tradition over Scripture. Jesus fulfilled every prophecy of the suffering Messiah, but Israel rejected Him and has wandered in spiritual darkness ever since. The Jew, like the Gentile, needs the gospel of Jesus Christ, the only Lord and Saviour. All have sinned; none are righteous by God’s standard; all need to be born again (Romans 3; John 3). That is what pastors must focus on. **Christians who support Israel but do not reprove Israel for her sin against God and proclaim Jesus as the Christ and instruct Israel to be born again are as apostate as Israel is.** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16-17). Romans 11:25-27 is another key to understanding the prophetic times in which we live. “Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” This refers to the worldwide preaching of the gospel of Christ and the ingathering of believers from the nations. When God’s plan for the church age is completed, “all Israel shall be saved.” Israel will repent and submit to Jesus as the Christ and be



converted. Christ will return and establish His global kingdom with its headquarters in a glorified Jerusalem. The New Covenant will be fulfilled. This is the subject of a great many prophecies, such as Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Psalm 72; Isaiah 2:1-5; 52:6-12; Jeremiah 31:23-37; 33:7-26; Zechariah 12:8-14; 14:1-21.

ALL OF FRANCE IS A NO-GO ZONE (Friday Church News Notes, December 26, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “All of France,” *World Israel News*, Dec. 17, 2025: “Every year huge crowds gather in Paris at the Champs-Élysées to ring in the new year with fireworks and concerts. Much like the New Year’s Eve parties in Times Square in New York City, the joyous festivities are a key link in the chain of worldwide celebrations of the year to come. No more. New Year’s has been canceled in Paris. The New Year’s Eve concert was pre-recorded with actors pretending to be the audience. The fireworks will appear on TV. And there will be no one to count the countdown because the Champs-Élysées has become France’s latest ‘no-go zone’. Ten years ago, Mayor Anne Hidalgo of Paris had threatened to sue *FOX News* for [supposedly] correctly reporting that there were ‘no-go-zones’ in Paris. ‘The image of Paris has been prejudiced, and the honour of Paris has been prejudiced,’ she fumed. Now, Mayor Hidalgo decided that even with the 6,000 police officers that had been deployed to secure the Paris event last year, the Champs-Élysées could not be protected against Islam. It began when Interior Minister



Laurent Nunez warned that there was a ‘very high’ terrorist threat aimed at Christmas. ‘Christmas markets are targets of terrorist organizations,’ he revealed and cited the previous Strasbourg Christmas market attack in which an Algerian Muslim terrorist with 27 previous convictions had opened fire, killing 5 people and wounding 11 more, and the Berlin Christmas market attack in which a Tunisian Muslim refugee drove a truck into the market killing 11 and wounding 56 people as examples of possible incoming attacks. ... France recently marked the 10th anniversary of the 2015 Paris attacks during which Islamic terrorists tried to blow up a soccer stadium, massacred people in the Bataclan theater and attacked local cafes in an orgy of bloodshed killing 130 people and wounding over 400 more.”

IN SALVATION, 99% CHRIST DOESN’T WORK (Friday Church News Notes, December 26, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace” (Galatians 5:4). “Christ is the entire bridge; on him you may cross safely. But if only one foot of that bridge is made of something else, the whole bridge collapses. This is a case of either all or none; ninety-nine percent Christ plus one

percent anything else is just as fatal as no percent of Christ” (Robert Lenski).

BACTERIA’S EYES AND EARS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 26, 2025, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 28, 2025: “Modern researchers are learning that bacteria are not a simple form of life. Rather, a bacterium is a tremendously complex creature that thinks. Scientists have discovered that bacteria actually have molecule-sized sensors. Some of these sensors act as eyes, while others act as ears. A dozen other proteins have been discovered that receive the information gathered by the bacteria’s ‘eyes’ and ‘ears.’ The collected information is then processed the same way your brain gathers and makes sense of information. Bacteria have specialized senses and a brain. In fact, bacteria are better at sensing some things than you and I are. A bacterium can, for example, sense the difference between two parts and one part in 10,000. This is the same as if you could tell the difference between one jar with 9,999 pennies and another jar with 10,000 pennies! The idea that bacteria are just ‘simple’ forms of life comes from evolution. Growing research is showing that even one-celled creatures are not simple at all. Think of it. Every single-celled bacterium must accomplish, within that one cell, all the tasks we accomplish using the trillions of cells in our bodies. Eating, digestion, metabolism, waste removal, reproduction--and even thinking--all take place within a single cell! There

is no such thing as a simple form of life. Science certainly argues against the idea that life began by accident. What science is learning urges us to think about the wise and thoughtful Creator Who made us! Ref: Pietsch, Paul. ‘The mind of a microbe,’ *Science Digest*.”

A FEW TIDBITS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS IN AMERICAN CHURCHES

(Friday Church News Notes, January 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The Pilgrims (arrived 1620) and the Puritans (arrived 1630s) were opposed to the celebration of Christmas, finding no support for it in Scripture, believing it to be “popish” and to have pagan roots, and loathing the worldly partying they had witnessed in England. “Christmas was banned in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1659, and anyone caught celebrating the holiday would be subject to a 5-shilling fine” (Plymouth400inc.org). The book *A Testimony Against Several Profane and Superstitious Customs* (1687), by Harvard College president Increase Mather, had a chapter “Against Profane Christ-mass Keeping.” Back in England, Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans banned the celebration of Christmas and the singing of carols in 1647 because it was considered a pagan festival. Hugh Latimer, Anglican bishop who was burned at the stake by Queen Mary, complained that “men dishonor Christ more in the 12 days of Christmas than in all the 12 months besides” (“How Lottie Moon changed the way Southern Baptists viewed Christmas,” Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Dec. 24, 2021). Methodists



recognized December 25 as the day of Jesus' birth and Charles Wesley wrote Christmas hymns ("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"), but their strong emphasis on holy living did not allow Christmas partying. **The situation changed in the 1800s.** "In the 19th century, Christmas was reborn through literature and popular culture. Authors like Washington Irving and Episcopal minister Clement Clarke Moore helped reimagine it as a season of generosity and family warmth. Moore's 'A Visit from St. Nicholas' (better known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas') popularized the image of Santa Claus and the tradition of gift-giving" ("Christmas in the United States," The National Museum of American Religion, Dec. 1, 2025). Most Baptists did not celebrate Christmas until the late 1800s. "Nineteenth century newspaper and local church records indicate that probably few Baptist congregations formally celebrated Christmas prior to the 1880s. ... By the 1890s, however, Christmas celebrations were common among Baptist congregations. Rather quickly, Christmas evolved into a time of special music and events within many Baptist churches" (Bruce Gourley, "Baptists and Christmas"). President Ulysses Grant signed a law making

Christmas a national holiday in 1870. Through the influence of missionary Lottie Moon, Southern Baptist churches began taking a Christmas offering for missions in 1888, which led to an increased emphasis on all aspects of Christmas, including trees, feasting, gift giving, and carol singing. "Over time the Southern Baptist embrace of a Christmastide offering to support missions made it respectable to incorporate additional Christmas themes in Southern Baptist churches" ("How Lottie Moon changed the way Southern Baptists viewed Christmas"). Christmas practice blossomed in England, too, during the Victorian era. In 1871, the publication of *Christmas Carols New and Old* (Henry Bramley and John Stainer) increased the popularity of carol singing. It was in the 1800s and early 1900s that most of the popular Christmas carols were written: "Silent Night" (1818), "The First Nowell" (1823), "Once in Royal David's City" (1849), "Away in a Manger" (1895), "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (1906).

AI-GENERATED CHRISTIAN ALBUM NO. 1 ON ITUNES (Friday Church News Notes, January 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The album *Faithful Soul* by Solomon Ray was the No. 1 Christian music album on iTunes in November. The music was produced by artificial intelligence, and nothing is known about Solomon Ray, if that is actually his name. The entire project is artificial. "The guitars, the drums, the vocals, and even the lyrics were generated entirely by AI." The music is described as "a soulful, gospel-centric sound that feels straight out of a big-budget Nashville studio" ("Forrest Frank



sounds alarm on AI Christian Music," *Crosswalk*, Nov. 20, 2025). This exposes the emptiness and worldliness of Contemporary Christian Music. It can be imitated by a mindless robot. We want holy, sacred music in the churches. We don't want to be conformed to the world; we don't want the stirring of the flesh by dance rhythms. We recommend [Transforming Congregational Singing for the 21st Century](http://www.wayoflife.org), available from the Books section of www.wayoflife.org.

NICARAGUA BARS TOURISTS FROM BRINGING BIBLES (Friday Church News Notes, January 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Nicaragua Bars," *Christianity Daily*, Dec. 16, 2025: "Travelers entering Nicaragua are now prohibited from carrying Bibles, a newly enforced rule that has raised alarm among religious freedom advocates. According to Christian



Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), warning signs posted at Tica Bus stations in Costa Rica indicate that items such as Bibles, newspapers, magazines, books, drones and cameras are forbidden for passengers, listed alongside typical contraband like sharp tools and perishable goods. ... The measure comes amid a multiyear pattern of tightening control over civic life and religious expression in Nicaragua, where authorities have shut down thousands of independent groups and frequently targeted churches and clergy. Since major demonstrations erupted in April 2018, the government has revoked the legal registrations of more than 5,000 civil society organizations, including over 1,300 religious bodies. Media outlets have also been squeezed. Customs blockades on basic supplies like ink and paper forced the closure of *El Nuevo Diario*, once one of the nation's leading newspapers, in 2019."

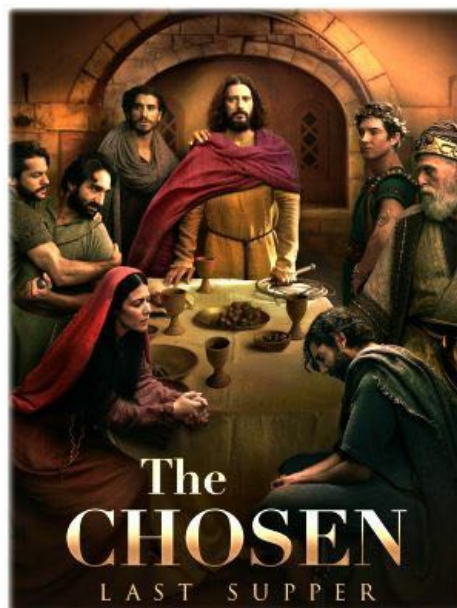
THE CHOSEN AND THE BIBLE

(Friday Church News Notes, January 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - [The Chosen and the Bible: 20 Questions to Ask Yourself](#) is available at

spiritualresearchnetwork.org.

Following is an excerpt: "Author William Paul Young's 2007 novel *The Shack* was a number one New York Times best-seller, selling over twenty million copies worldwide. The book has been read and loved by both Christians and the world. It eventually became a Hollywood movie and a twenty-week series on Christian television. For years, any criticism of *The Shack* was usually countered by Shack fans with—'Hey, it's just a novel!' Yet in 2017,



ten years after its original publication, and in the midst of his TV series, author William Paul Young openly declared what many had long-suspected—that he was a universalist. He had also gone on record stating that *The Shack* was more than 'just a novel.' He said, 'The Shack is theology. But it is theology wrapped in story.' Today, *The Chosen* TV series has been viewed by millions of people around the world. Its devoted fans have also donated millions of dollars to the series' record-breaking crowdfunding campaign. Any biblical criticism of *The Chosen* is usually countered by Dallas Jenkins and Chosen fans with—"Hey, it's just a TV show!" However, Jenkins seems to already be following William Paul Young's *Shack* universalism path as he uses his highly visible Chosen platform to introduce mystical New Age Catholic universalists like Richard Rohr and Brother Lawrence to his ever-growing fan base. Obviously, the lesson Christians should have learned from *The Shack* has been lost amidst all *The Chosen* fanfare. And the lesson is that fictional false Christs can be used by our Spiritual

Adversary to cleverly condition and deceive people. In short, what seems to be 'just a novel' or 'just a TV show' can turn out to be something else entirely. ... **Given that Dallas Jenkins admits that 95% of *The Chosen's* content is not from the Bible, and you are told to watch the series as if the Bible didn't exist--how much truth will you ever learn from this multi-season series?** As one watches episode after episode, season after season, you are learning more about fictional backstories than anything that is actually true. You will be ever viewing, but never coming to a knowledge of the truth. The Bible warns about things that have 'a form of godliness' but lack the true power of God and His Word. It says, 'from such turn away.'" [2 Timothy 3:5] [The Chosen and the Bible: 20 Questions to Ask Yourself](#) can be viewed online or ordered as a booklet at Thelighthouse trailsresearch.com.

HOW TO LOSE YOUR TEENAGER BEFORE HE IS FIVE YEARS OLD

(Friday Church News Notes, January 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org,

fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The best time to train a teenager is when he or she is a toddler. Pastor J.B. Buffington, said, "I've heard people say, 'Everything went along alright until my children became teenagers and then something happened.' But I beg your pardon, that's not the case. Most of it happened before five years old. That's why I exhort mothers, 'Don't let anybody be a baby sitter of your children except you and other godly people.' In those first five years, attitudes, security, goals, and many other things are already developed, and

they will come into full blossom in the teenage years. A child is like a computer. What you put in comes out. You can put something into a computer and pray that something else will come out, but it won't happen. I urge you not to waste time, to start early" (*How to Lose Your Teenager before He is Five Years Old*). (This sermon can be found at www.wayoflife.org by means of the search engine.)

SPIDER HYDRAULICS (Friday Church News Notes, January 2, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 24, 2025: "Hydraulic machines are part of our everyday lives. When you step on the brakes in your car, brake fluid, which cannot be compressed, is forced from a cylinder into the braking mechanism attached to your wheels. Hydraulic mechanisms work because fluid cannot expand, but it will easily flow to areas where there is less pressure. However, humans were not the first to invent uses for this principle. The spider uses it all the time. The spider has his skeleton on the outside of his body and his muscles inside his skeleton. Since our muscles are outside our skeleton, we can use muscles both to bend our legs and stretch them out. However, the spider's arrangement allows his muscles only to bend his leg. When he wants to straighten out his leg to



take another spidery step, he pumps fluid into his leg, and the leg joint hinges open. The North American dwarf mistletoe builds up hydraulic pressure equal to that found in a truck tire. It uses that stored pressure to catapult its seeds up to 50 feet at a speed close to 60 miles per hour. The squirting cucumber, found in the Mediterranean area, uses the same principle to propel its seeds up to 40 feet. Who would believe that the brake system in an automobile came together by chance and natural forces? Neither does it make sense to believe that spiders, other animals and plants came about without a Designer and Creator. Ref: Tributsch, Helmut. 'How spiders stretch,' *Science Digest*."

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR SWORN IN ON A QURAN PROMISES COMMUNISM (Friday Church News Notes, January 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The new America--the anti-freedom of speech, anti-freedom of religion, anti-Christian, anti-democracy, anti-separation of powers, anti-life, anti-wholesome, anti-kindness, anti-law and order, anti-capitalism America--continues to make progress. The following is excerpted from "Christian Pastors Warn," *Christianity Daily*, Jan. 2, 2026: "Democratic New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani faced swift backlash following his inaugural address, delivered Thursday from the steps of City Hall after being sworn in on a Quran by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. The 34-year-old democratic socialist drew widespread attention for remarks in which he framed his governing philosophy around collectivist ideals, declaring, 'We will replace



the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism.' ... Several Christian pastors and theologians responded publicly, warning that communism has repeatedly produced outcomes far different from what their advocates promise, according to reporting by *The Christian Post*. ... Josh Howerton, senior pastor of the multi-campus Lakepointe Church in Dallas, Texas, noted that Christianity and Marxism have been fundamentally opposed since the latter's inception. Howerton pointed to an 1889 sermon [41 years after the publication of *the Communist Manifesto*] by Charles Spurgeon on Isaiah 66, in which Spurgeon condemned 'Democratic Socialism' as a counterfeit gospel that sought to 'set up a kingdom for Christ without the new birth or the pardon of sin,' while treating the Cross as an *enemy*. 'The latter-day gospel is not the gospel by which we were saved. To me it seems a tangle of ever-changing dreams,' Spurgeon preached. 'It is, by the confession of its inventors, the outcome of the period, the monstrous birth of a boasted *progress*, the scum from the caldron of conceit. It has not been given by the infallible revelation of God: it does not pretend to have been. It is not divine: it has no inspired Scripture at its back.'" **CONCLUSION:** "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions,

and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

UN SPENDS \$100 MILLION A YEAR AGAINST ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, January 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from, "UN Spends," *World Israel News*, Dec. 24, 2025: "Israel's envoy to the United Nations blasted the international body this week, accusing the UN of spending roughly \$100 million per year to investigate and vilify the State of Israel, and to fund various activities hostile to the Jewish state. In a video statement on Monday, Danon teased the release of an analysis of the proposed 2026 United Nations budget, showing that the UN has allocated some \$100 million for investigations of Israel, 'incitement' against Israel, and other programs hostile to the country. ... 'Instead of obsessively dealing with Israel, I would suggest that the UN invest the money where it is really needed, like humanitarian crises or in the global fight against terrorism.



But until that happens, we will continue to push back against the machine of lies and incitement and fight for the truth here, in the corridors of the UN.' ... 'The UN will also allocate about \$80 million this year to UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East], an organization that has for years been a hotbed of terrorism,' Danon said."

NEARLY 80,000 JEWS VISITED THE TEMPLE MOUNT IN 2025

(Friday Church News Notes, January 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *Israel365News*, Jan. 2, 2026: "In 2025, 76,448 Jews ascended to the Temple Mount--Judaism's holiest site--shattering all previous records. This represents a 31% increase over 2024 and marks the continuation of a decade-long surge that has seen Jewish presence at the site [increase] more than sevenfold since 2015, when only 10,700 Jews made the ascent. ... The transformation extends beyond mere statistics. What was once the practice of a small, dedicated group has become a movement spanning Israeli society. ... Jews from every background--ultra-Orthodox to entirely secular--are reconnecting with the place where two Temples once stood, where Abraham bound Isaac, where Solomon built his sanctuary, and where Jewish sovereignty was centered for a thousand years. ... During 2025, Jews openly used siddurim—Jewish prayer books—on the Temple Mount, reclaiming their right to worship at the site where their ancestors brought offerings and sang psalms. ... The Israeli government, however, continues to impose severe

restrictions on Jewish religious expression at the site. During 2025, 202 Jews received administrative bans from the Temple Mount following prayer or suspicion of prayer--compared to 109 in 2024, 85 in 2023, and 52 in 2022."

51% OF CHILDREN 8 AND UNDER HAVE MOBILE DEVICES

(Friday Church News Notes, January 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Every church that is not dealing aggressively and effectively with the issue of the internet and the smartphone is a church that is on the path of moral destruction. We recommend *The Pornographic Age and Victory in Christ*, available from www.wayoflife.org. The following is excerpted from "Even the future king discovers smartphones are a royal pain for kids and parents," *Fox News*, Dec. 7, 2025: "Prince William--one of the most recognizable figures in the world--recently revealed that keeping smartphones out of the hands of Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis has become a 'tense issue,' sharing in a recent interview that 'children can access too much stuff they don't need to see online.' He added that they instead spend time jumping on the trampoline, playing sports and trying to learn musical instruments.



It's a reminder that no matter one's status or position, every parent today faces the same challenge: how to protect childhood in the age of constant connection. ... Interestingly, some of the world's top tech leaders--industry titans who helped create the devices and platforms shaping our digital lives--have also kept them away from their kids. Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates banned phones at the dinner table and didn't allow his

children to have their own until age 14. Apple's Steve Jobs famously limited his children's screen time and denied them unrestricted iPad access. Former YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki gave her children phones only under controlled circumstances and took them away on vacations. Even billionaire entrepreneur Mark Cuban has said his kids live with strict tech limits. ... Ninety-five percent of

teens today have access to a smartphone, and nearly half say they're online 'almost constantly.' ... Children are accessing devices at younger ages. **A 2025 Common Sense Media report found that 51% of children aged 8 and younger have a mobile device, spending nearly two and a half hours a day using screens--and for those aged 5-8, it's nearly three and a half hours."**

COMPLEX ANT SOCIETY (Friday Church News Notes, January 9, 2026, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 11, 2025: "Imagine a huge living creature covering about one square mile and made up of almost a third of a billion cells. Imagine each of those living cells being able to move about independently of the others. No, it's not the plot of a new science fiction movie. Some scientists have suggested that ant colonies may be thought of as one large living organism. They suggest this because of the way individual members within ant colonies behave. Ant colonies have many kinds of members, each with its own specific task. The soldier ants in a colony have extra-large heads and heavy-duty jaws for fighting. Other ants are concerned only about finding and returning food. Still other workers do nothing but process and store food. Within the colony another caste of ants does nothing but tend the eggs. Others prepare the food for the larvae and deliver it to other specialized ants who do nothing but feed the next generation. If this sounds complex, imagine the largest known ant colony. This



Japanese ant colony has an estimated 306 million worker ants, and more than a million queens. The colony occupies 45,000 interconnected underground nests that range over about a square mile! There is obviously intelligent design and control behind ant society--intelligence not found in ants or in nature itself. This intelligence comes from outside nature. Here is yet another witness that no concern of any living thing is too small for God's complete attention!"

Aim of O Timothy Magazine

- Exalting the Lord Jesus Christ; His eternal perfect, and preserved Word; and the Gospel of his Grace. (2 Peter 3:1-2, 18)
- Standing for the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27; Jude 3)
- Challenging Christian workers to uphold the truth and resist the apostasy of our times. (1 Timothy 6:20-21)
- Exposing the spirit of error and compromise within Christendom (Hosea 4:6a; 2 Tim. 3)
- Upholding the New Testament Church (1 Tim. 6:13-14). O Timothy is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church of London, Ontario.
- Challenging churches to fulfill the Great Commission of world evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 13-14)
- Standing for the Received Text of the Holy Scriptures, the Authorized Version in the English Language, and sound translations of the TR in the languages of the world. (Ps. 12:6-7)



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