

Parenting 1 - Fruitfully Multiplying

I. Introduction.

A. Anyone name one of the many popular parenting book titles today?

B. Background.

1. The U.S. **birthrate is dramatically down** over the last 15 years. In 2022, **50% of all states and almost 75% of all countries had more deaths than births**. In 2022, the **U.S. total fertility rate was down to 1.665 births/1,000** women, and even lower in 2024.
2. Women **claim economic and social issues prohibit them from having more children**. Families place a higher value on money to get things earlier; so, it is perceived that motherhood is devalued, demeaned, and deemed not as important anymore.
3. Today **more feel compelled to leave the home and work jobs not related to family, parenting, and children**. Home-making, parenting, and other roles caring for children used to be of the highest, most sought after, and honorable roles, especially for women.
4. Sadly now, **children are perceived to get in the way of careers, travel, and other pleasure-seeking pursuits get priority**. Many consider children a problem, not a joy anymore. This is seen in couples **delaying marriage until much older** (when more challenging to have healthy children), or they just live together. Fewer are even having children. Many babies are aborted, considered an accident, or an inconvenience. Parents often resent their children or feel depressed when called upon to invest in raising even their own children.
5. To be honest, it can be very **wearisome to take care of infants, babies, and many resent their teenagers for stealing their joy and life-force**. Society even coined the term DINKs (Double Income, No Kids).

C. Be honest, what are your thoughts about children (especially of having and parenting your own)?

D. Is having children is pro-life?

E. Are children parttime or fulltime?

II. Scripture.

A. Biblical importance of children, thus parenting.

1. **"Children"** = 1,822 times.
 2. **"Child"** = 205 times.
 3. **"Son"** = 2,393 times.
 4. **"Sons"** = 1,101 times.
 5. **"Daughter"** = 327 times.
 6. **"Daughters"** = 254 times.
 7. **"Infant"** = 2 times.
- 6,107 times.

B. Are pregnancy and child-birth painful?

John 16:21—"*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.*"

C. Is child-bearing something God wants?

Gen. 1:28; 8:17; 9:1, 7—Yes, God not only wants it, He commands couples to "*be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*"

D. Is having children to parent, God's reward, or punishment?

1. **Psa. 127:3**—"*Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is His reward.*"
2. **Gen. 33:5**—"*...The children which God hath graciously given thy servant.*"
3. **Ruth 4:13**—"*...the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.*"
4. **Heb.2:13**—"*And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.*"

E. Does God extol having many children for parents/grandparents?

1. **Psa. 127:4**—"*As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.*"
2. **Psa. 127:5**—"*Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them [children]: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*"
3. **Pro. 17:6**—"*Children's children are the crown of old men.*"

III. Application.

A. Should a Christian go against our culture and desire a large family, why/why not?

B. Why is/isn't having children the best way to fulfill the Great Commission to consistently disciple the most receptive?

C. If struggling, how can you increase your desire for a large family?

D. How might having/parenting children grow your ability to love?