

Single Christian lady opts for Artificial Insemination to beat “biological clock.” Is the Bible silent to this case of situation ethics?

Prelude

The natural maternal instincts in a female being are sincere and strong.

In this day, age and time of medical technology, an idea comes in a single Christian lady's mind to go for artificial insemination since no Man has expressed interest and qualified for the position of husband with whom she can bear a child yet she has waited a little longer.

Quick question to this is, whose sperm/seed is to be implanted in her uterus? please do not ask, all she needs is a child, can't you see the biological clock is ticking!!!!!!!

She even finds it a mean statement telling her that, “I know what you are going through my Christian Sister”, deep in her she is saying, “oh no! what do you know, you have not been in this situation before.”

Popular opinions in this case rotate around the following areas;

- a) God would not have given her the desire to have children if He did not want her to have them.
- b) Who does not see that she is running out of time on her body clock or rather biological clock?
- c) Who does not see that she does not have a husband and no one is showing up at the moment as a potential candidate.?
- d) The Other claim is, please show us a specific portion of Scripture condemning this practice.?
- e) Some extremists have taken it to this far, that “even Virgin Mary too conceived minus having sexual intercourse with a man much as she did not use artificial means.”

Definition:

In simple terms, Artificial insemination is the process whereby a sperm is medically implanted in a woman's uterus at a specific place and time in order to increase the chance of an egg becoming fertilized hence pregnancy. There are two types of Artificial insemination; the first is AIH in which the woman's husband's sperm is used and the second is AID in which a donor's sperm is used [one who is not her husband]. For the case of the Marrieds, this process is usually opted for, when the sperm count of the husband is not sufficient to allow pregnancy or when there is some physical or psychological problem involved in sexual intercourse.

even though this process is not explicitly described in Scripture, we can still derive biblical principles that apply to this subject.

While the concept and Medical technology for artificial insemination did not exist when the Bible was written, what is clear is that, The Bible celebrates and even encourages procreation within the boundaries of Marriage. We can attempt to discern from what it does say in order to draw a possible conclusion. God created man, saw it was not good for him not to be alone and made him a suitable helper [Genesis 2:18]. He did what was best for “us”.

Likewise, Adam and Eve became intimate and through his assistance, Cain and Abel were born. Adam lay with his wife and she became pregnant, gave birth to Cain. She said, with the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” [Genesis 4:1]. Note the key phrases that “Adam lay strictly with his wife and she became pregnant”. Second phrase, Eve after conceiving and giving birth to a baby boy appreciates God, “with

the help of the Lord, I have brought forth a man". An indicator that Children are a blessing from God.

Like the Psalmist says in Psalm 127:3, **Children are a gift from God**; they are a reward from Him. There are multiple examples in the Bible where God opened and where He closed Women's wombs. There is a case of Abraham and Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth who were past child bearing age and God made it possible for them to bear a Child.

Purpose for Conception:

God created conception to occur between a man and woman within the covenant of marriage in order to populate the Earth. The disparity arises when arguments against this creed arise, that, that was the Old Testament. As if to say the Old testament is too Old to be relevant in present times.

Artificial Insemination can be classified to as a quick fix against God's will.

Case Study one: Lot's daughters and their quick solution to their "supposed late age without a Child."

Vs 31; One day the older daughter said to her Sister, "there are no men left anywhere in this entire area, so we can't get married like everyone else. And our father will soon be too old to Have children. Vs.32; Come, let's get him drunk with wine, and then we will have sex with him. That way we will preserve our family line through our father."

So, both of Lot's daughters became pregnant by their own father. Older sister had a son, and she named him Moab; he is the father of the Moabites of today.

The younger daughter also had a son, and she named him Ben-ammi; he is the father of ammonites of today [Genesis 19:31-32,36-38].

From their children came the Moabites who worshipped the god chemosh, honored with cruel and wicked practices and the ammonites, who were steady antagonists of Israel. Was this how they intended to preserve their family line?

Case Study Two: When Sarai sought a quick solution to her "supposed barrenness" against God's will.

If we look at Sarai's case from the Bible who took her supposed barren situation to provide a quick solution, the outcome was not desirable. Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; so she said Abram, the Lord has kept me from having children. "Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her". [Genesis 16:1-2].

As a result of her impatience and unbelief, Sarai acted outside of God's promise for her life. She thought perhaps she could do it on her own. maybe I can do it better, maybe I can make it happen. But what about the consequences?

Then Sarai said to Abram, "you are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me". [Genesis 16:5].

Sarai's move did not just bring strife between her and Abram, Hagar's son Ishmael is considered the father of the Arab people and his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility towards all his brothers [Genesis 16:12]. The Jewish and Arab People have been enemies ever since. Is this the family Sarai envisioned?

Often times in our impatience we think as though we know what is best for us only to discover later that had we waited, maybe we would have landed into what is meant for us. This does not mean God cannot use every situation in the end for His glory; however, it may not always be the best for us.

Artificial Insemination has a place in Society

I must say, Artificial insemination has a place in society, for instance when a couple is not able to conceive on their own and the seed/Sperm of the husband is implanted in his wife. However, I have not found any biblical substantiation where the seed/sperm of a stranger is permitted to be implanted into a woman [married or not] for the purpose for having a child.

What other Alternatives?

How about considering Foster Parenting, adoption?

God Instructs us to love the Children of God. this can be achieved in a number of ways besides giving birth. there is also foster parenting, adopting, mentoring. The prevention of pregnancy could be a means by which the Lord arranges for couples to adopt, thereby, taking care of other children.

Should we promote a culture of children growing up without fathers? Weren't families designed to have fathers and mothers so that Children will receive training and nurturing from both a male and female perspective? We cannot dismiss the great proponent and influence of a father in a Child's life, save for isolated cases where the father passes on or is an irresponsible father.



Like many grey areas in Christian living, this is an issue that does not have its own passage of Scripture to clearly guide us and instruct us. We can only dwell on the biblical principles therein which never change. In fact, we need to widen our scoop to other invasive surgeries or involved medical procedure as well. For instance, should we be putting man-made or foreign objects into our bodies in order to prolong life or improve health, plastic joints, plastic surgery and so on. Is it in order or not in order?

God commissioned the human race in Genesis by the proclamation that Adam and Eve were to multiple and replenish the earth. If the married couple is having problems getting pregnant and artificial insemination is recommended by a medical doctor, the following are acceptable; (i) only the sperm and egg of the married couple are involved, (ii) fertilized eggs are not intentionally lost or destroyed. **It should be noted that, accepting sperm from another man whom you are not married to means inviting intrusion of another man's seed into herself. This is an adulterous occurrence.**

Unmarried ladies should **patiently seek God's face**; He alone knows perfect plan for them. Christian couples struggling to conceive should seek God's wisdom as they prayerfully consider the appropriate options for their family. We must be careful not to let situation ethics govern biblical principles.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING YOUR TIME TO READ THROUGH TO THE END.