

## Voices of Faith #59

*“The birth of octuplets through artificial insemination to an unwed, unemployed mother of six has elicited discussion on a variety of ethical issues from the right to reproduce to the responsibility/irresponsibility of the doctor and the mother. What are your opinions this matter?”*

“Children are a heritage from the Lord” say the Psalms, a gift from God, and it is an awesome responsibility to raise them in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. God intends (and commands) that they, like the act which creates them (which is also a gift of God), be enjoyed within the confines of marriage. Unwed mothers having and raising children is clearly outside of the will of God.

The situation with the woman in question is a moral and social travesty on too many levels to address effectively here. *In vitro* fertilization is itself a process not without serious ethical implications, the process itself in almost every instance results in fertilized embryos (i.e. children) remaining unimplanted and destroyed (i.e. killed). That this procedure was knowingly undertaken by someone already on public assistance, and who will now pass the cost of raising these new ones along to the taxpayers is wrong. A welfare system that pays women who cannot afford children in the first place to have more is irresponsible. A doctor who knowingly enters into this situation is medically and ethically suspect.

I pray for this lady and especially for her 14 children who will be burdened, probably for the rest of their lives, with the irresponsibility shown by a mother, doctor, and society that have reduced children from the blessing of God that they should be to just another commodity, to be used for our own gain, and discarded (sometimes literally) when they are an inconvenience.

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