

**“Sweeter by the Dozen”**



So . . . now that we are married, when should we “start our family?” And how many children should we have?

Since the world is so scary and evil, maybe we shouldn't have *any* kids. Or at least limit it to one boy and one girl.

Anyhow, based on how other Christians we respect make these sorts of decisions, it's obviously up to us to decide how many children to have. Apparently it's not something God really cares much about.



How do you decide these sorts of questions as followers of Christ? And if Christ is to be Lord of *every* area of life, shouldn't that include the size of our family? But what might that mean?



In the next few minutes, we intend to make the case that, in the area of child-bearing, we Christ-followers have been following the values of our secular culture much more than we have been adhering to God's perspectives of the subject.

We will make our case based on three points:

- The historical fact that the birth-limitation movement originated entirely from those who were decidedly anti-God.
- We will show how our view of child limitation is producing catastrophic worldwide UNDER-population.
- We will also show how our view of child limitation is unintentionally supporting legal abortion in our nation and world.

Did you know that the **average** woman in 1800 in America gave birth to **7 children**?



But, at the same time, there were other forces beginning to work to **restrict** births. Some of that came from the teaching of Thomas Robert Malthus (1766-1834) and his bestseller *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. Bottom line, he taught, mankind's ability to reproduce will ultimately result in impoverishment, e.g. overpopulation.





So began the pressure to adopt “birth limitation” efforts, including abortion, infanticide and other forms of “birth control.”

In his book “*The Birth Controllers*” documenting the history of the birth control movement, author Peter Fryer proudly states: “The birth control movement throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was part of vigorous challenge to Christianity and Christian notions of sin.”

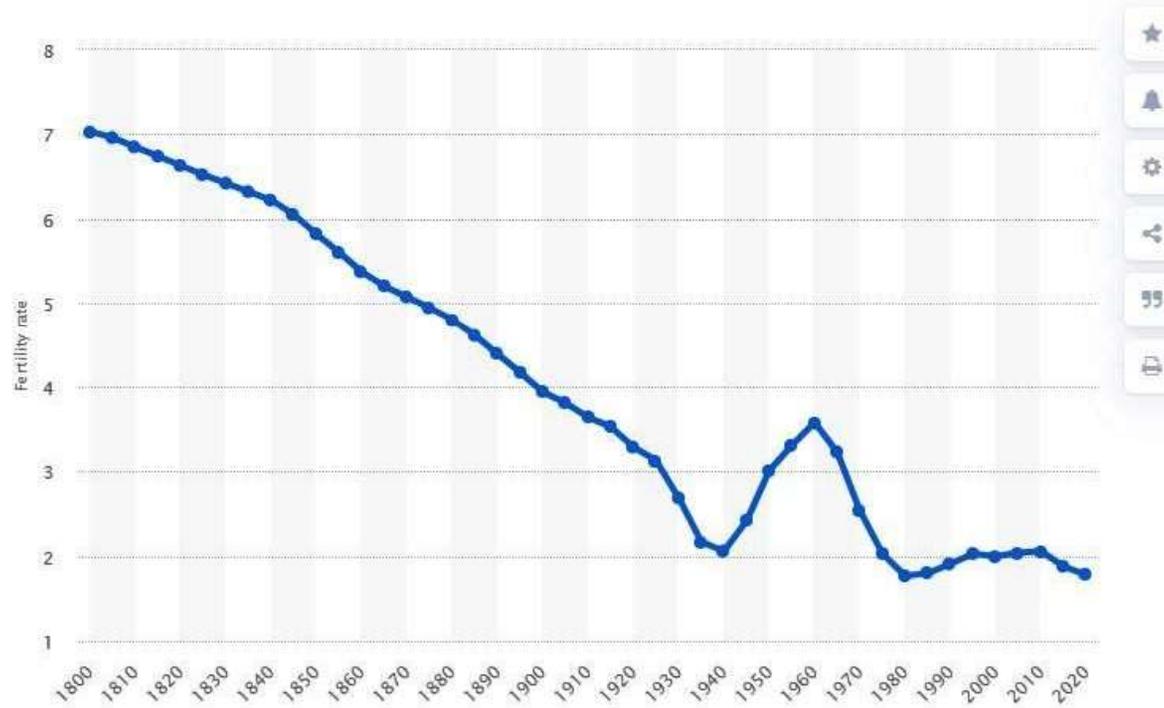
## Birth Control “Pioneers” Part I

NAME	LIVED	NATION	MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION	IMPACT	RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION
Francis Place	1771-1854	England	Passed out handbills and books on contraception	Called “father of birth control movement.”	Atheist
<u>Richard Carlile</u>	1790-1843	England	Published <i>Every Woman's Book or What is Love</i> (1825)	Was influential in the lives of subsequent leaders.	Atheist
Robert Dale Owen	1801-1877	U.S.	Published <i>Moral Physiology or a Brief and Plain Treatise on the Population Question</i> .	Book widely distributed in the U.S.	Agnostic early; became a <u>spiritist</u> .
Charles Knowlton	1800-1850	U.S.	Published <i>Fruits of Philosophy or the Private Companion of Young Married People</i> . (1832)	Book widely distributed in both U.S and England.	Philosophical materialism.
<u>George Drysdale</u>	1825-1904	England	Published <i>Elements of Social Science; or Physical, Sexual and Natural Religion</i> (1854)	Book widely circulated in England.	Natural religion designed to oppose Christianity.
<u>Charles Bradlaugh</u>	1833-1891	England	Published Knowlton's <i>Fruits of Philosophy</i> with Annie Besant. Prosecuted for his work.	Great publicity at trial led to wide public interest in contraception	Atheistic

## Birth Control “Pioneers” Part II

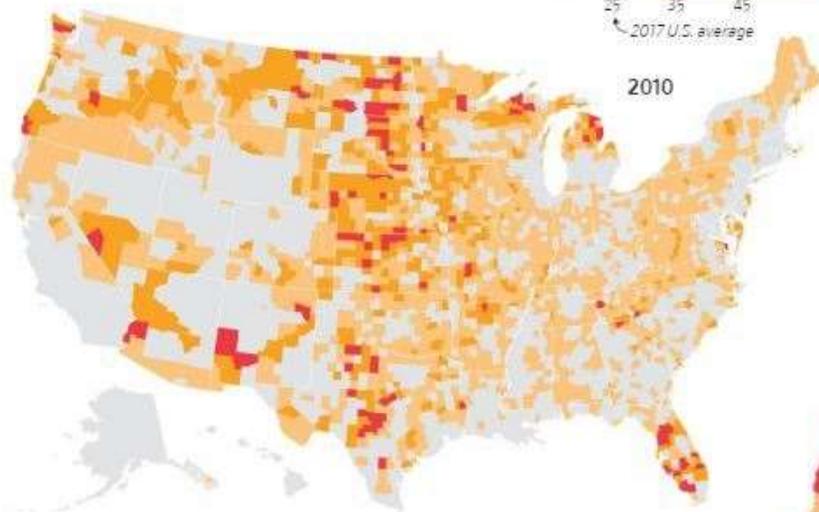
NAME	LIVED	NATION	MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION	IMPACT	RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION
Annie Besant	1847-1933	England	Published Knowlton's <i>Fruits of Philosophy</i> with Bradlaugh. Also published her book, <i>Law of Population</i> .	Her prosecution also led to publicity for the issue and a downturn of the English population.	Christian, then atheistic, then the occult.
Margaret Sanger	1883-1966	U.S.	Wrote, spoke and organized about contraception and eugenics.	Planned Parenthood formed; birth control becomes household word.	Atheistic, but dabbled in occult.
Marie Stopes	1880-1958	England	Authored <i>Married Love</i> and <i>Wise Parenthood</i> . Opened birth control clinics.	Books sold 2 Million copies in 30 years. Great impact on society and church in England.	Mystic. Claims God told her in a vision about proper birth control devices which did not unnaturally block the “divinely inspired mixing of coital fluids.”
Paul Ehrlich	1932-	U.S.	Author of <i>The Population Bomb</i> (1968)	Book sold 3 Million copies. Profound impact on culture. Big impact on legalizing abortion in 1973.	Agnostic, possibly pantheistic

## Total fertility rate in the United States from 1800 to 2020\*



Old-age dependency ratio

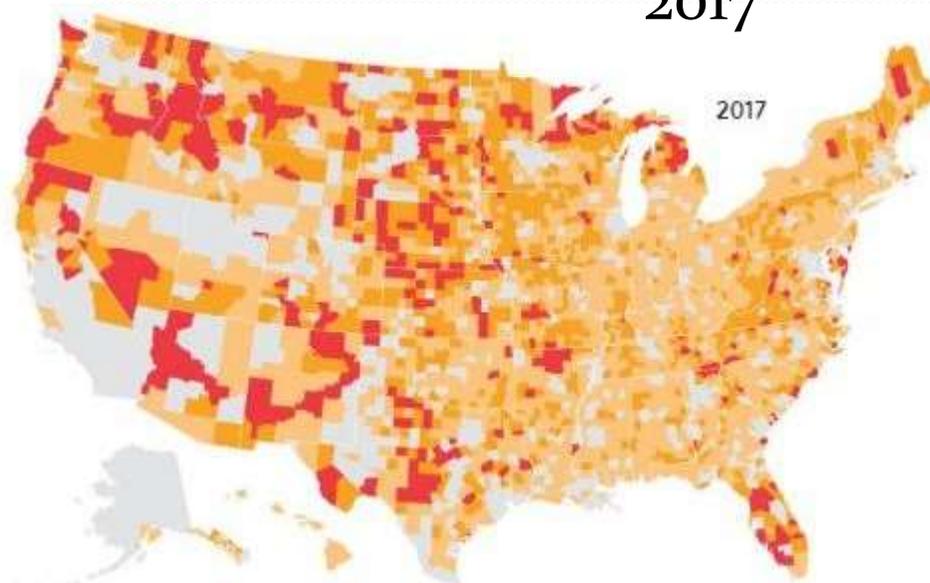
Number of residents age 65 and older per 100 residents age 18-64



2010

Old-age dependency ratio: the more red, the older the median population

2017

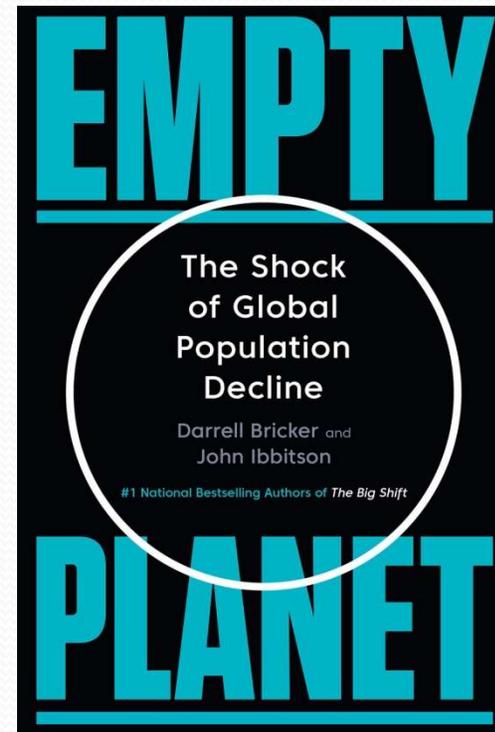


2017

Is a dangerous population explosion imminent?

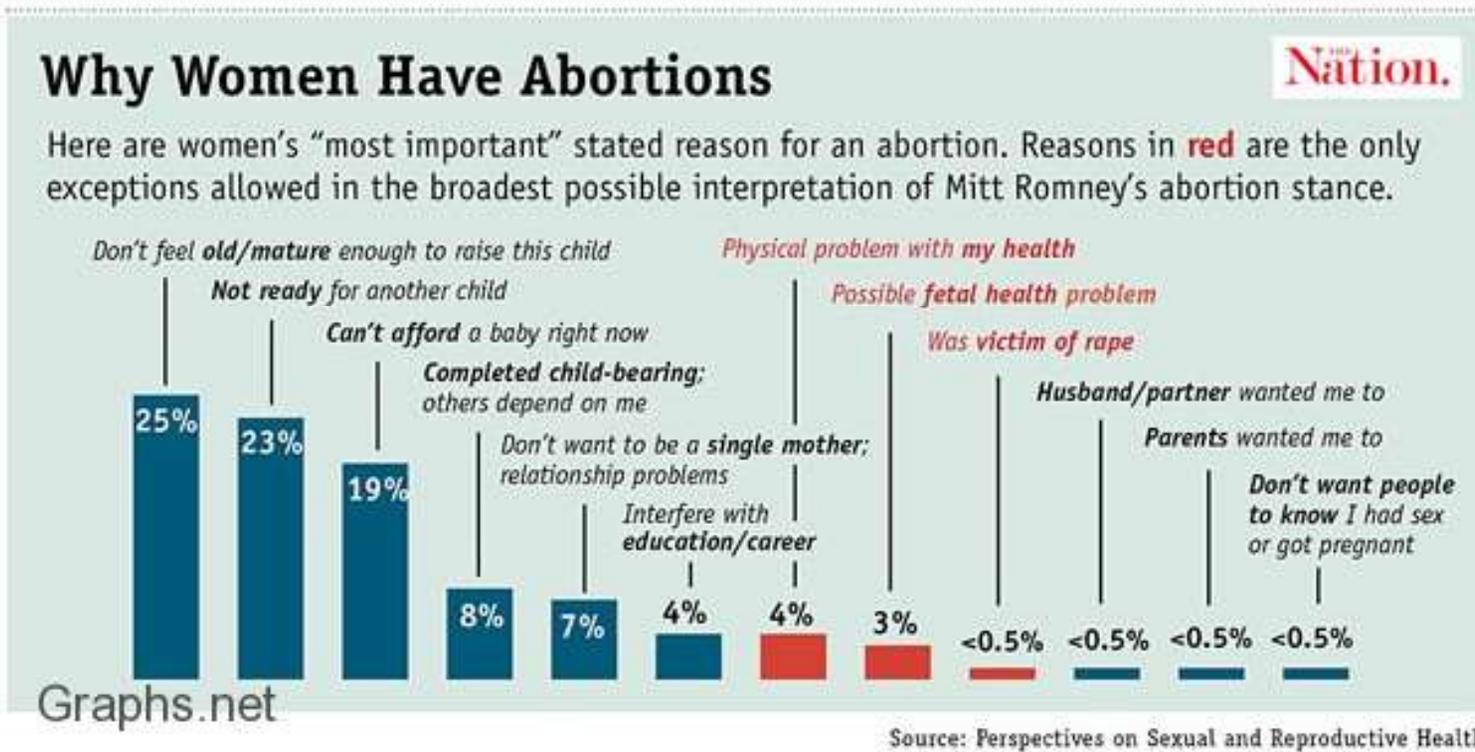
For decades we've been told so by scientific elites, starting with the Club of Rome reports in the 1970s. But in their compelling book "*Empty Planet: The Shock of Global Population Decline*," Canadian social scientist Darrell Bricker and journalist John Ibbitson lay out the opposite case:

**"The great defining event of the twenty-first century,"** they say, **"will occur in three decades, give or take, when the global population starts to decline. Once that decline begins, it will never end."**





Why do Women Have Abortions? Because they want to kill a baby? No.





In Matthew 5: 21-30, Jesus says:

- Hatred of a brother is the attitude that feeds murder.
- Lust is the attitude that feeds adultery.
- Desire for sex without the hassle of having a child is the attitude that feeds abortion.

(Guess how many “prolife Christians” have this pro-abortion attitude?)

# Marcia and I have been there:



1969



1976



2018



2019

*Life...as a Bontrager*





Dear Mr Hekman,

Thank-you for speaking on the blessing of children. I am the youngest in our family of 10 and without your message I might not be here.

Our family has been able to encourage other families to have more children.

Keep encouraging families.

In Christ

Rebecca

Dear Mr. Hekman,

12/2/15

Hello! I am blessed to be the wife of Marvin Bontrager, mother to 10 dear children, and daughter of the King.

Because of the radio interview that you had with Dr. James Dobson 20 some years ago, my husband and I gave up our plans to choose how many children we would have. There were many times that I, as a mother of 10 children born in 16 years, was overwhelmed and totally exhausted and even afraid; but I can testify that everytime I called on the Lord Jehovah, He was my strength and song. I have learned many lessons as a mother of a large family, but none so great as that of learning to trust God's plans. Truly, He has blessed our family exceeding, abundantly above all that we could ask or think. He has done excellent things! My life would be so very different if we had not trusted God with our family size.

With deep gratitude for the difference your message "The Blessings of a Large Family" had in my life, I want to encourage you to continue to proclaim God's ways and His goodness.

In Christ, Becky



## **Seven Biblical Concepts about Having Jesus Lord of our family size:**

**1. Jesus is to be Lord of **every** area of our lives, including our bodies.**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”  
(Romans 12:1-2)



**2. God's command to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth has never been fulfilled nor revoked. As a by-product, growing population produces economic growth.**

“A large population is a king's glory, but without subjects a prince is ruined.” (Proverbs 14:28)

Consistent with teaching by renowned Harvard economics Prof Joseph Schumpeter: *“Wealth flows from a growing population.”*



### **3. Marriage IS a big deal and hopefully will result in the “blessed event” of children for parents whose health allows.**

“Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.  
4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. 5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.” (Psalm 127:3-5)

“Didn’t the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union.” (Malachi 2:15)

“Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.” (I Corinthians 7:5)



**4. Biology and chance do not make babies; God does! He decides gender, personality, timing etc.**

“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.” (Psalm 139:13-15)

*“Children are God’s messages we send to a time and a place we ourselves cannot go.” (author unknown)*



“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5)

“Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?”  
(Job 31:15)

“But when God, who set me apart from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles . . .” (Galatians 1:15-16)



**5. Apart from God, man seeks fulfillment in sex. But he will never be satisfied. Our joy only comes as we worship Him and seek to obey Him.**

“Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.” (Romans 1:24-25)



## **6. Mankind's biggest threats are not climate change nor asteroids, but his own sin.**

“The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.”  
(Isaiah 24:4-6)



## **7. God has promised to meet our needs for food and clothing.**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 4:19)



**Summary: We suggest that every Christian couple should have this policy:**

*Unless significant health issues clearly preclude such, the couple should be open to the children God wishes to create through them for His glory and the advancement of His Kingdom.*

Let's close with a picture of Jesus' view of children:

“People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, **he was indignant**. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” <sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.” (Mark 10:13-16)

