



The Coptic Orthodox Church Position on Family Planning



"Do not desire a multitude of worthless[a] children, and do not rejoice in ungodly offspring. If they multiply, do not rejoice in them, unless the fear of the Lord is in them. Do not trust in their survival, or rely on their numbers; for one can be better than a thousand, and to die childless is better than to have ungodly children. For through one intelligent person a city can be filled with people, but through a clan of outlaws it becomes desolate. Many such things my eye has seen, and my ear has heard things more striking than these."

(Sirach 16 : 1 - 5)

The practice of family planning is the essence of the family's recognition to its important responsibilities pertaining the upcoming generation. Family planning is about the family's consideration for having a suitable number of children. It is crucial that the family considers having the optimum number of children that it can provide with utmost care and love. This is the major motive for the church to accept the principle of family planning.

The Coptic Orthodox Church (COC) recognizes that necessity for practicing family planning as an essential national contribution in confronting the exploding population problem which threatens the national economy, resources and future of our beloved Egypt.

The Church accepts family planning, in principle, in a way that does not interfere with the will of God; for God has established a natural regulation for the offspring of mankind. In the context of this acceptance, the Church stipulates that the proper family planning method should neither be harmful to the mother's health nor cause the death of a foetus (miscarriage).

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