



Christian Voices for Life

*Wednesday Word*

Education

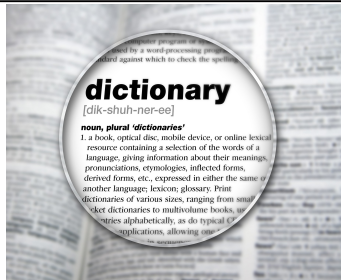
Prayer

Action

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## Redefining Pregnancy to Obscure the Truth.

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**Education:** While many people condemn abortion as the taking of a life, most are more comfortable with the prevention of pregnancy, whether by regular use of birth control methods, or, especially in the case of rape, by “emergency contraception”. While all of these methods are described by the providers as “preventing” pregnancy, the truth is that **in some cases they act to cause an early abortion of a child already conceived**. Barrier

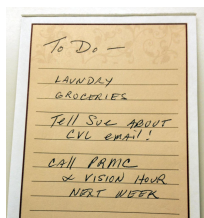
methods (condom, diaphragm) truly prevent conception by preventing the sperm from reaching the egg. Hormonal methods (pill, patch, or injection) and IUDs (intra-uterine devices) are more complex in their action. While the pill was originally designed to prevent ovulation (the release of an egg), the reduction of the hormone dose in order to lower side effects led to a much higher frequency of ovulation. Although the hormone action may also make fertilization more difficult, it can definitely occur. However, this new human life may now be prevented from implanting in the wall of the uterus to secure its source of nutrition from the mother, and begin the changes needed to maintain the pregnancy. So, a woman on hormonal birth control has no way to know how often she may in fact be conceiving a child, but having her tiny son or daughter die because they are not able to implant.

In the case of “Emergency Contraception”, which by definition occurs after intercourse, the mode of action depends on the woman’s cycle. If she has not yet ovulated, the “morning after pill” may prevent ovulation. If she has already ovulated, fertilization may also have already occurred, and in that case the only “prevention” that occurs is to prevent implantation, not fertilization.

Intra-uterine devices (IUDs) prevent observable pregnancy primarily by preventing implantation, and they are now used as one form of emergency contraception. In order to market IUDs as “preventing” pregnancy, **“pregnancy” was redefined** as beginning at implantation. It is undeniable, however, that fertilization, the union of egg and sperm, is when a new life begins. For more detail, see “Birth Control as Abortifacient” and “Emergency Contraception” information sheets on the [CVL web site](#).



**Prayer:** Dear Lord, please guide women to be aware of the truth of how birth control methods may actually be causing early abortions. Help them to open their hearts to your guidance in every aspect of their lives, and to understand your beautiful plan for sexuality. Help us all to understand and respect the sexual union of husband and wife as a sign of the total gift of self of our Bridegroom Jesus Christ to His bride, the Church. Help married couples be a living witness of this committed love in all aspects of their married life.



**Action:** If you are using hormonal birth control yourself, please consider what may be happening within your body, and prayerfully consider God’s will for your family in this area. Talk to your friends that may be using IUDs, the pill or other hormonal methods. Few people realize the truth that conception may be taking place, and children may be dying.