

# REPROD- ACTION

## REPROD-ACTION

June 12, 2016

**Sermon in a sentence:** Let us do everything possible to increase our spiritual birth rate.

**Congregational reading:** John 1:1-13

**Scriptures:** John 1:1-13; John 3:3, 5-7; Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 12:2b; Rom. 9:1-3.

John 1:1-13 NKJV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. <sup>7</sup> This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup> That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> But **as many as received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those **who believe in His name**: <sup>13</sup> **who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**In 1851, the birth rate in Canada was 6.6 live births per 1,000 population, well above the 2.1 rate needed to maintain a stable population level. By 1951, the rate had dropped to 3.4 and in 2011 it was 1.6.<sup>1</sup> In other words, were it not for immigration, the Canadian population would have been in steady decline.**

**In time past, I often heard it stated that a woman's greatest desire was to be a mother. However the statistics in Canada (and the rest of the developed world) do not bear this out. As women have become better educated and taken a much larger role in the nation's workforce, they have had declining numbers of children. (In fact, the statistics show that the countries with the highest birth rates also have the lowest literacy rates and vice versa.)<sup>2</sup>**

**Yes, there are some women (and men to a lesser degree) that contract 'baby fever' at some point in their lives – the very strong urge to have children. For women, this is often linked to what is colloquially called their 'biological clock'.  
*(Unfortunately, at this late stage in their reproductive lives (40-45 years old), conception becomes more difficult and the incidence of birth defects increases.)<sup>3</sup>***

**Some who have researched the 'baby fever' phenomenon theorize that it is not as much biologically based as it is societally and psychologically based. Many women eventually seek to have babies because they have been socially conditioned to equate childlessness with**

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/11-630-x/11-630-x2014002-eng.htm>, accessed June 7, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.indexmundi.com/g/r.aspx?t=0&v=25&l=en>, accessed June 7, 2016.

<sup>3</sup>

[https://secure.cihi.ca/free\\_products/AIB\\_InDueTime\\_WhyMaternalAgeMatters\\_E.pdf](https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/AIB_InDueTime_WhyMaternalAgeMatters_E.pdf), accessed June 7, 2016.

selfishness.<sup>4</sup> However, in spite of all this, the birth rate continues to decline.

.....

Jesus made His intentions very clear regarding His desire to see people 'born again' unto eternal life. If indeed 'baby fever' is a result of social and psychological conditioning, this is definitely the way our Lord wants Church society to function! He wants His kingdom to grow as people experience a 'new birth'. In fact, He told us that unless an individual is 'born again' they can neither see nor enter the kingdom of God!

John 3:3,5-7 NKJV Jesus answered and said to him, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

5 ... **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.’**

And as He was preparing to return to Heaven, Jesus told His disciples:

Matt. 28:18-20 NKJV ... **“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have**

---

4

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/04/why-women-arent-having-children/390765/>, Accessed June 7, 2016. This article also refers to a couple of other books regarding people's choice to be childless.

**commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.**

**It is our Lord’s strong desire to see His kingdom grow through ‘new birth’.**

**Let us listen again to what John tells us in our text:**

**John 1:12-13 NKJV But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

**Clearly, it is the will, purpose, desire and plan of God that new babies be born into His kingdom! That is what Calvary is all about. As a woman experiences intense labour and pain in delivering a child, the Lord experienced intense psychological and physical pain in Gethsemane and on the cross. Through suffering, He opened the way of salvation to humanity.**

**Heb. 12:2b NKJV ... for the joy that was set before Him [He] endured the cross, despising the shame....**

**He came to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).**

.....

**Followers of Jesus have been described in various ways in the NT:**

- **Servants: John 12:26; John 15:15; John 18:36**
- **Fellow-labourers: 1 Cor. 3:9**
- **Friends: John 15:13-15; Luke 12:4**
- **Brethren: John 20:17; Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:11-12**
- **Bride / wife: Rev. 19:7; Rev. 21:9**

Each title describes an increasingly intimate relationship between God and His people. When we get to the final titles of 'bride' and 'wife', we are now speaking of the most intimate of all relationships. We are now joined together as 'one spirit' with God (1 Cor. 6:17)!

Thus, we, the Church, the Bride of Christ have a very crucial role to play in our Lord's desire to birth new spiritual babies. Reproduction does not take place without action. We need to get busy with the activities that support spiritual reproduction. It is time for "Reprod-Action."

**It begins with prayer. Prayer is the expression of our desire to reproduce, asking for help from the One who alone gives life.**

We need the spirit of Hannah. Childlessness was not an outcome she could envision. She was living a comfortable life, had the love of her husband and had his encouragement to be satisfied with the way things were. He did not despise her or pressure her in any way regarding her inability to have children. But none of these things could displace her desire to bear a child. She was healthy and strong with no obvious impediment to being a mother, and she wanted to be a mother!

She did what she needed to do to get pregnant, but it just wasn't working. So she took another step. She went to the house of God and poured out her heart to the Lord. "Lord, I want a baby!" (See 1 Samuel 1: 1-20.)

I wonder how many Christians there are that have never been engaged in Reprod-Action? I wonder how many have never told anyone about Jesus, never taught a Bible study, never taught a Sunday School class, never gathered their children around the dinner table to teach them about

**Jesus, never prayed a prayer for the salvation of a soul? Hopefully, not many. However, each of us needs to check our level of desire that the Lord would use us to help Him bring a lost soul to salvation. (See 1 Cor. 3:5-7)**

**The apostle Paul’s desire to see the salvation of his nation was so great, he said:**

**Romans 9:1-3 NKJV I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh....**

**When last have any of us been moved to say something like that? “I am so pained and distraught about my family, my friends and my fellow citizens that don’t know Christ, I could almost give up my home in Heaven to let them take my place!” (The Caiaphas analysis – John 11:49-50.)**

**Instead, as the people of God, His human “bride”, we seem much more interested in fussing, fighting, arguing and complaining about issues that are of no heavenly (or even earthly) importance.**

.....  
**We have no power in and of ourselves to save someone’s soul. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to draw people to Christ.**

**At the same time, it is the work of the Church to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). We need the desire of Hannah and Paul to draw us to a place of intercessory prayer for those we know and love to be “born of water and the Spirit.” We need to say like Rachel: “Give me children, or else I die!” (Gen. 30:1).**