

The Mail Bag

The Spring 1990 issue contained a letter from Dr. Peter Forney of Texas. In the course of relating his practices on surgical reversal of tubal ligation, Dr. Forney requested counsel from Christians on the issue of the advisability of performing such surgery when the prospects for success are poor or unknown. Following are two responses.

Dear Editor:

I think that Dr. Forney has already partially answered his own question. Most couples who seek reversals want, most importantly, to put their bodies back as far as is possible to how God designed them, no matter which the probability of future conception. Then, if God *should* give them more children, it would only be more of a blessing.

Mutilation of the body as it applies to transsexual operations is very astutely addressed in the same issue of the **Journal**; however, I have never seen mutilation discussed as it applies to tubal ligations and vasectomies.

Procreation (the first commandment - see Genesis 1:28) is such a sacred privilege and responsibility for married couples, that in the Old Testament, God pronounced judgment on anyone who attempted to interfere in any way with His design. Examples:

1. A man with mutilated or defective reproductive organs could not be a priest - Lev. 21:5, 16-24 (see Hebrew **Strong's** #1320), and verses 16-24.
2. A man with mutilated or defective reproductive organs could not even enter into the congregation of the Lord - Deut. 23:1.
3. Onan was put to death for refusing to raise up seed to his brother Gen. 38:8-10.

4. One of the reasons God condemned divorce was that it prevented "godly seed" (more children) - Mal. 2:14-16.

There are principles from these verses (and from others, which call children *blessings*) that may be applied to the whole realm of birth control today. Therefore, I would encourage Dr. Forney and other physicians to whom God has given the skills to perform reversals to see themselves as "Redeemers of Mutilated Bodies" - to the glory of God. All physicians who truly want to base their lives and practices on Scripture must consider these principles carefully. The Bible has a lot more to say about "gray areas" than our culturally conditioned intellects would like to admit.

Sincerely,

Carol Blair
Hinsdale, IL

Dear Editor:

I just got around to reviewing your spring issue of the **Journal** and noticed the letter by Peter Forney, M.D. I have been doing vasectomy reversals for several years at no charge to the patient, asking only for a \$500 donation to the local pregnancy counseling center. I have not applied any selection criteria. I simply review the entire procedure with the couple and let it go at that. If the good Lord wants them to proceed further, they do, and if He doesn't, they don't! I have enclosed a copy of my most recent letter [to patients who inquire].

"Thank you for your inquiry regarding vasectomy reversal (vasovasostomy). I have been performing this surgery for fourteen years and have a pregnancy rate of approximately 60%. I prefer using regional or general anesthesia for the operation, but not local because of the length of surgery. (2 1/2 - 3 hours). I use an operating room in either Presbyterian Hospital's Same