Pandora's Box—1977

Joan Beck, writing in AMERICAN MEDICAL NEWS (November 22, 1976, Page: Impact/4), expresses deep concern about the problems which are about to result from the lifting of the lid by abortion. It is quite certain that inexpensive and highly accurate methods of determining the sex of the unborn child by the eighth week of its existence will soon be available. Furthermore, it is predicted that shortly there will be effective methods for favoring the conception of a child of the desired sex. In the event of failure, abortion would be available to make the correction. Such technological capabilities, combined with a world-wide attitude among parents that prefer a boy-baby to a girl-baby, especially for the first pregnancy, can well result in a continuation of male leadership roles and a male-dominated international society, characterized by violence and wars.

REFLECTION: What can be done to avert the realization of these dire predictions? While a variety of stop-gap measures might be introduced, it seems to me that the public must ultimately be made to realize the consequences of such applied technology and that public opinion make it unpopular and unprofitable to develop technology in such anti-life directions. It is the values of the people that determine what new technology will survive and what will not. The primacy of the person — not the sex — is a basic gospel value: "... there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28). For those persons who think abortion is strictly a private matter between the woman and her physician, it must have become apparent by now that the impact of such action goes far beyond the sterile sterility of the clinic. On the positive side, as Dr. Herbert Hatner has pointed out, the potential mother may begin to realize that conceiving and bringing forth a human life has a significance which extend in concentric circles from the family hearth to the forums of international diplomacy. When a couple experiences the support of the community in their role as parents, that is, when they see the extended family and the societal community approving their child-bearing as something important for the well-being of society, then they are better able to carry out their parental role. In turn, a husband's tender, loving support of his wife in the role of mother provides her with the additional encouragement to extend tender, loving care to the child. All this is very important, both for the individual and for society, because the child’s first personal relationship is with the mother, and the experience of that first interpersonal relationship will markedly influence all subsequent relationships. In turn, the quality of these bonds do much to shape the character of the community.

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