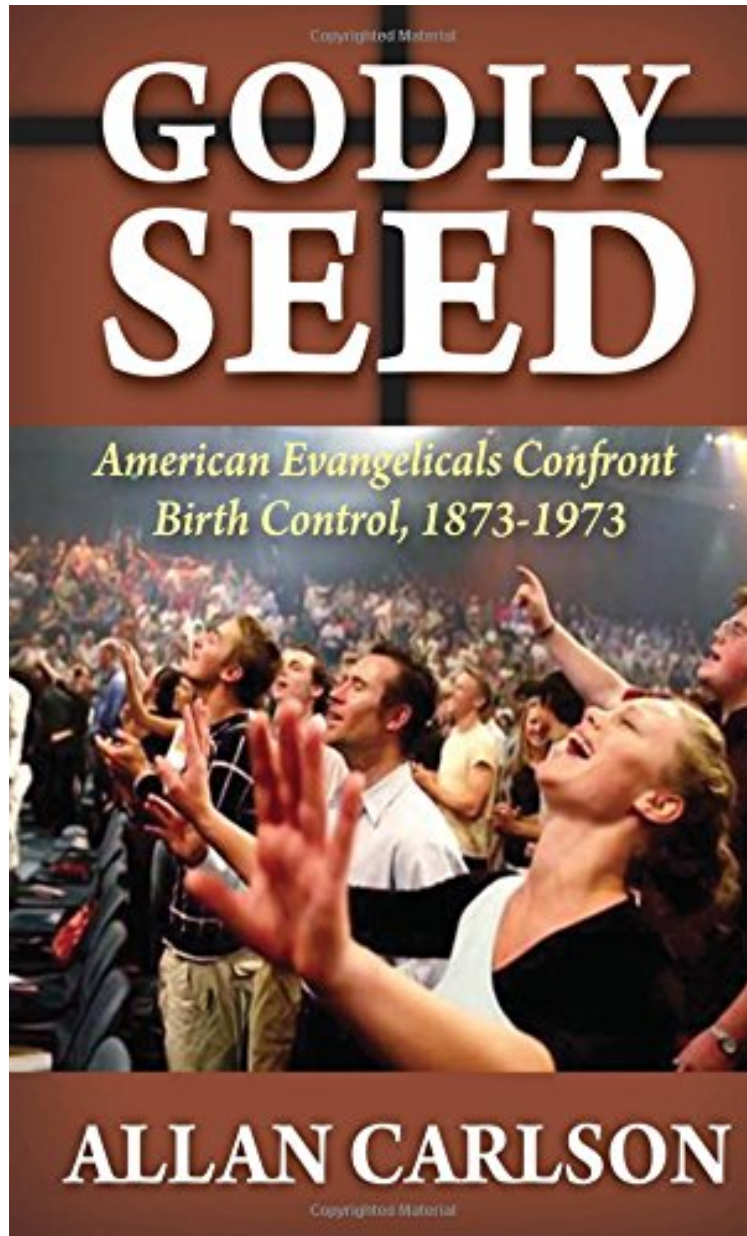


[Free download] Godly Seed: American Evangelicals Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973

Godly Seed: American Evangelicals Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973

Allan C. Carlson

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Allan C. Carlson : Godly Seed: American Evangelicals Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Godly Seed: American Evangelicals

Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Godly Seed Godly Culture* By Richard A. Fortrightly historic presentation of the declining moral evaluation of contraception as contrary to natural law--its denial of the true purpose of the marital conjugal act, the procreation of children. Once almost universally recognized as an evil practice by the larger Christian community, is now almost exclusively condemned by the Catholic church. Yet, the practice of contraception in all its forms is likely practiced by most young married Catholic couples who are either ignorant of or openly defiant of this Church teaching. I hear Catholic clergy speak loudly about abortion but never about this other grave sin which also denies human life. The author of this book rightly associates the two practices together, with one leading directly to the other. I commend him for his courageous act of writing this book. Abortions will never come to an absolute end, but its practice will never decline until the evil of contraception is once more recognized as its precursor and its use discontinued. The rhythm method as prescribed by the Catholic church (which does not impose a contrived barrier), is the only morally valid alternative to contraception in controlling family size and spacing pregnancies, but it does require abstinence at certain critical times. In today's secularized materialistic and highly sexualized culture it seems difficult to practice any form of delayed gratification. Yet the Church must renew her mission to proclaim the whole truth even though certain aspects of moral theology are not widely accepted. The church is not in the business of accommodating popular culture.

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. *Excellent Book* By MichaelThe book is small and rather incomplete. A good start, an excellent reference. I like the book's extensive references provided at the end of each chapter. It provides plenty of places to go for further research. More could have been said about Malthus, the ideas that the earth is already over crowded, the arguments with regard to women's health, economics of large families, etc. It is not enough to just state these arguments were made but to address them head on. Maybe I was too optimistic, I was hoping for more of the biblical arguments, from before 1907, presented against the use of artificial birth control and not so much of a history. Recommended other reading: *The American Religious Debate over Birth Control 1907-1937* This book shows a slight tilt against Christianity, but does a good job documenting a critical time in American history related to this subject. It tells how virtually every Christian denomination stood against artificial birth control prior to 1907 (and Margret Sanger), and how Margret Sanger chipped away at the legal system and the churches to where by 1937 virtually all of the denominations accepted artificial birth control. One of the interesting things to me is to see the same methods used by Sanger to justify birth control were used again in the abortion argument and now in the homosexual arguments. *Marital Relations, Birth Control, and Abortion in Jewish Law* The author does a better job, biblically, than any Christian I know of in presenting the biblical issues associated with the subject. He follows the arguments through Scripture and through the case law of both liberal and conservative rabbis. If you are reasoning through these issues, read this book. *The Christian Case Against Contraception: Making the Case from Historical, Biblical, Systematic, and Practical Theology Ethics* Read it. *Criticism:* The price is too high. I can't afford to buy a lot of copies to be given away. I have bought some copies, but hope that a reduced cost version will be available soon. One of the highest recommendations I can give is to buy copies to be given away.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. *The Truth They Don't Want You To Know*. By Brian If you are a Christian, you must read this book to understand the cover-up that even blinded many churches to the truth about contraception and so-called family planning. This book is meticulously researched and documented, and the hidden agenda behind many of today's hot-button social issues is exposed in the light of the bare truth. You will probably become angry at the lies and betrayal of God's church, at some point, but remember that this world is in sin and darkness, and many are blinded by Satan to the wisdom of God's plan. God's enemies would love to destroy this book, so you had better get a copy before the powers that be suppress it for ever. If you've ever wondered how we got to the mess we're in today - READ THIS BOOK and you will know!

Interview with Allan Carlson In an ironic twist, American evangelical leaders are joining mainstream acceptance of contraception. *Godly Seed: American Evangelicals Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973*, examines how mid-twentieth-century evangelical leaders eventually followed the mainstream into a quiet embrace of contraception, complemented by a brief acceptance of abortion. It places this change within the context of historic Christian teaching regarding birth control, including its origins in the early church and the shift in arguments made by the Reformers of the sixteenth century. The book explores the demographic effects of this transition and asks: did the delay by American evangelicals leaders in accepting birth control have consequences? At the same time, many American evangelicals are rethinking their acceptance of birth control even as a majority of the nation's Roman Catholics are rejecting their church's teaching on the practice. Raised within a religious movement that has almost uniformly condemned abortion, many young evangelicals have begun to ask whether abortion can be neatly isolated from the issue of contraception. A significant number of evangelical families have, over the last several decades, rejected the use of birth control and returned decisions regarding family size to God. Given the growth of the evangelical movement, this pioneering work will have a large-scale impact.

[E]xplores the path taken by evangelicals from ardently opposing the dissemination and use of contraception in the late 19th century to acceptance by the mid-1900s. Recommended. B. F. Le Beau, *Choice Godly Seed: American Evangelicals Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973* examines the history and process by which evangelical leaders eventually moved from being against contraception to accepting birth control and even briefly abortion. It uncovers a relatively little-known segment of evangelical history and Christian religion, exploring shifts in arguments and interests in the early Church and following the religious movement's influences and changing interpretations of the Bible. Any Christian collection strong in Christian social history will find this a scholarly survey that fills in many gaps. The Bookwatch, Midwest Book [A] fascinating history of sex, contraceptives and abortion. *Godly Seed* is more than a history of abortion, spotlighting those who opposed it and others who defended it. It is also a book of the rich history of the church, both catholic and protestant. *Godly Seed* should be in the library of all, no matter what side of the debate you stand. It is remarkably non partisan, offering all views respectfully, even showing the negative conduct of Christian leaders along with abortion proponents who misuse Scripture verse to make their point. Reverend Austin Miles, <http://cc.org/blog> "Opposition to birth control is widely perceived as a 'Catholic issue.' Historian Alan Carlson demonstrates that as a matter of historical fact, the Christian churches were united in their opposition to contraception until 1930. Carlson deftly shows how the change occurred, through a combination of 'divide and conquer tactics by the population control lobby, intellectual exhaustion among the Mainline Protestants, and anti-Catholicism among the Evangelicals. Highly recommended." Jennifer Roback Morse, founder and president, Ruth Institute "This provocative volume by one of the world's foremost family-issues scholars suggests that perhaps American Evangelicalism unwittingly traded the Blessed Virgin Mary for Margaret Sanger. The arguments are hard-hitting and unrelenting. Reading this book is like seeing an unwelcome reflection in a mirror. But it might just start a conversation that is well worth having." Russell D. Moore, dean, School of Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

From the Inside Flap In an ironic twist, American evangelical leaders are joining mainstream acceptance of contraception. *Godly Seed: American Evangelicals Confront Birth Control, 1873-1973*, examines how mid-twentieth-century evangelical leaders eventually followed the mainstream into a quiet embrace of contraception, complemented by a brief acceptance of abortion. It places this change within the context of historic Christian teaching regarding birth control, including its origins in the early church and the shift in arguments made by the Reformers of the sixteenth century. The book explores the demographic effects of this transition and asks: did the delay by American evangelicals leaders in accepting birth control have consequences? At the same time, many American evangelicals are rethinking their acceptance of birth control even as a majority of the nation's Roman Catholics are rejecting their Church's teaching on the practice. Raised within a religious movement that has almost uniformly condemned abortion, many young evangelicals have begun to ask whether abortion can be neatly isolated from the issue of contraception. A significant number of evangelical families have, over the last several decades, rejected the use of birth control and returned decisions regarding family size to God. Given the growth of the evangelical movement, this pioneering work will have a large-scale impact.

About the Author Allan C. Carlson is president emeritus of the Howard Center for Family, Religion, and Society in Rockford, Illinois and was distinguished visiting professor of history and politics at Hillsdale College.