

"Be Fruitful and Multiply"

by WmTipton

Assertions/Conclusions of this Article

Simply to show that the instruction to 'be fruitful and multiply' was given in a specific context and not meant as some blanket command by God for everyone at every time to pump out 17 children.

Supporting Evidence

The CONTEXT each time of 'be fruitful and multiply' was when the population NEEDED to grow.

1. In the beginning when there were TWO people- Gen 1:22, Gen 1:28
2. After the flood when there were EIGHT people left - Gen 8:17, Gen 9:1, Gen 9:7
3. And when God renamed Jacob "Israel" to build a NATION that did not yet exist - Gen 35:11

There is no command for every single married couple to be fruitful or multiply. In every case where God said this it was necessary to populate either the earth or to create the nation of Israel. It is not a commandment for the individual marriage.

Mankind has been fruitful and multiplied when instructed to do so. The instruction has been followed and obeyed.

2.0

A refutation by Paul

Pauls words himself in 1 Cor 7 show us more evidence that this directive to be fruitful and multiply cannot possibly have been to ALL men and women for ALL time when Paul tells them that it is better at that time to remain unmarried. How would they obey this directive to be fruitful if they weren't even getting married?

Paul would find himself in direct conflict with this directive by God *IF* that directive were meant for ALL men and women for ALL time.

In my opinion then, because of the present trouble, it is good for a man to keep as he is. If you are married to a wife, make no attempt to get free from her: if you are free from a wife, do not take a wife.

(1Co 7:26-27 BBE)

This isn't my favorite version but it's clear enough that we can determine that Pauls intent is that if you are unmarried (for whatever reason) that it's best that you remain as you are (at that time).

Paul would seemingly be in defiance of any directive that "all" men and women 'be fruitful and multiply' if Paul is in any way discouraging marriage for ANY person for ANY reason since we don't, without sinning, have sex and make children without marriage.

Certainly this isn't the context of the passage, but based on what said at that time we can easily deduce that the directive 'be fruitful and multiply' CANNOT be taken as being for EVERY man and woman for ALL time.