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18 April 2008

Our ref. ADM08-LT-03 LC MP

Liz Cunningham MP
 Ellectrate Office
 191 Phillip St
 Gladstone. Q.4680

23 APR 2008

Dear Liz Cunningham MP

Altruistic Surrogacy

I believe that the God given way, a man and a woman united in an intimate, life long commitment to each other, remains to be the best means for raising healthy and whole children. When a man and a woman commit to each other in love (looking to the best interests of their partner before their own) an environment necessary for wholesome human development is established. This deferring to the well being of others is a key to human life. I have observed that the pursuit of self, self interest and self gratification to undermine this environment and even produce an environment that is destructive to human well being and development.

I do not believe that children are a right, but a gift and a privilege. Rather than a right to be possessed I see a child as a responsibility to self sacrifice, love and care.

I know that in the hearts of men and women there is in a sense a built in desire to procreate, and this desire and longing can be extremely strong. But I seem to hear in this argument for surrogacy rights a strong cry from would be parents that seem to be more focused on their rights, their wants and desires than the love and well being of the child.

I believe that the closer we as a community seek to travel to God's plan for life as expressed in the Bible the fewer problems we will encounter in life. In simple terms, the plan relevant to this subject would I believe include:

1. One man and one woman married for life.
2. A base culture of love.
3. God out of love gives us children.
4. He alone opens and closes the womb.
5. Barrenness is a cause to seek God with all your heart and soul for an answer.
6. He promises to bless all those who love him and are willing to be led by him.

My main concern with surrogacy is the bond that occurs between the mother and baby in the womb. I know that a baby in the womb is affected by the attitudes, beliefs and environment of the mother. To initiate a child in a womb of a mother who cannot afford to or is discouraged from bonding with that child in her womb is to give that child both an unnatural and unhealthy start to life.

For the reasons listed above I would ask and beseech that as a member of our government you would speak against these trends towards surrogacy that are fraught with many apparent dangers, especially in the case of those settings other than a man and women committed to each other for life.

Yours faithfully

Pastor Howard James