

## This question takes many forms:

“Surely you can’t be saying that NFP and Contraception are different because one is natural and the other artificial? What’s wrong with being artificial?”

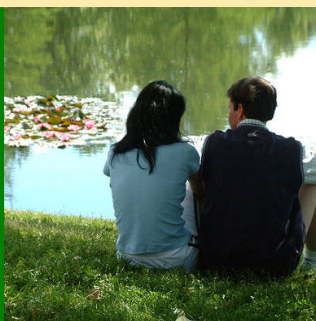
“How is the conscience of someone who uses contraception different from one who uses NFP? They both want the good of the family?”

“For the same grave reasons to postpone pregnancy that make NFP morally acceptable, wouldn’t the use of a condom instead be just as moral?”

“If every sexual act must remain open to the transmission of life, then NFP is wrong too when used during the infertile time.”

The theme is that similar goals or effects prove that they are both contraceptive and immoral or both family planning and moral.

**NFP modifies sexual behaviour to suit fertility while contraception suppresses fertility to suit behaviour**



## Are they the same?

Both NFP and contraception have to do with birth regulation but how does that make them the same? All crows are birds and all eagles are birds but are crows eagles? And apples and oranges and even dukus and durians are all fruits yet different, one from the other.

And if you eat the poisonous mushroom you will die even if you want it to be the delicious, and expensive fungus, the truffle. It is not enough to have good intentions without also having moral methods.

## How exactly are they different?

Although both are used to regulate birth, **NFP modifies sexual behaviour to suit fertility while contraception suppresses fertility to suit behaviour.**

Adopting either one is to develop the habits and culture that go with that practice and to turn one’s back on the other – usually with far-reaching consequences.

The words themselves imply the paths taken.

**Being faithful to God’s design of Procreative Love makes us beautiful.**



**Natural Family Planning** means planning a family, NOT avoiding one as married couples mutually express the “language of the body”, losing themselves in each other in a fusion of life and love for the genesis of new persons.

Choosing life is choosing love for people over things, where children are more precious than the things they replace.

“Natural” then implies Natural Law, the moral law inscribed in the heart, not the absence of pills or devices.

Being faithful to God’s design of Procreative Love makes us beautiful. The husband who recognizes the inner beauty of his wife is in a sense seeing God.

**Contra-ception** on the other hand means anti-conception or controlling conception and is commonly extended to anti-pregnancy and anti-birth in a sex-sparing, anti-life package.

Contraception is never used to achieve pregnancy. It may plan for the good of some children but often at the expense of other children, some of whom may be selected for abortion.

Some contraceptives, such as the Pill and the IUD, may themselves cause abortion. Yet, using contraceptives is not wrong just because of this effect.

Every contracepted act is intrinsically evil because it corrupts the very meaning of marriage and sex. This is true also of devices like the condom, diaphragm or female condom and of measures like sterilization and withdrawal (Onanism, Gen. 38,9), which do not themselves cause abortion.

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## Using NFP and using contraceptives are very different acts

Sex is for life-giving love, but fruitfulness normally means cyclical fertility and infertility until menopause – like a radio is designed to produce music though it’s sometimes off.

NFP does nothing to the sexual act to make it less fertile than it would otherwise be. But contraception blocks a baby that could have resulted from sex on fertile days. It falsifies the design of fruitful sex – like using the radio to hammer a nail into the wall.