

# Pro-life Basics

***I understand fully what you have against abortion, but the pill? That is what keeps abortions from happening. Let's be real here; people have sex... I just wanted to let you know that you're lacking compassion towards people who are living in the real world.***

—Jackie

Jackie, your views are very important to us, and it is my pleasure to respond to you. There are two very important health reasons for our opposition to the birth control pill, in addition to our moral objections.

The first is that, contrary to popular belief, the birth control pill and other hormonal contraceptives do not reduce the number of abortions. Even those who support the pill admit to this. It is extremely dishonest to promote the theory that the pill curtails abortion when, in fact, the pill and other hormonal contraceptives can and do work in three different ways, one of which is abortion. When the pill works by thinning the uterine lining, the embryonic child dies and this is an abortion. Therefore, it is inaccurate to suggest that the pill “keeps abortions from happening.”

The second is that the pill and other hormonal contraceptives are known to be carcinogenic and can also cause a series of other health problems for women and their future children. Hormonal

birth control methods have been linked to cancer, heart conditions, thromboembolisms and more. Additionally, they have now been shown to have negative effects on the environment, particularly rivers and the ocean.

I strongly recommend that you do an independent study of the plentiful research available on the harmful effects of hormonal contraceptives. The material we cite is of exactly the same nature as that cited by hormonal birth control advocates. Obviously, each side emphasizes the facts according to its own perspective.

It is not compassionate to deceive people by

only telling them what they want to hear. There are very disturbing facts about the birth control pill and other hormonal contraceptives that are rarely brought to light. It is our responsibility to make sure we provide this information through our educational outreach, so that you are fully informed before deciding one

way or another about hormonal contraceptives.

***Judie Brown is president of American Life League and a member of the Pontifical Academy for Life. Ask Judie questions at her [www.all.org](http://www.all.org) column.***

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