

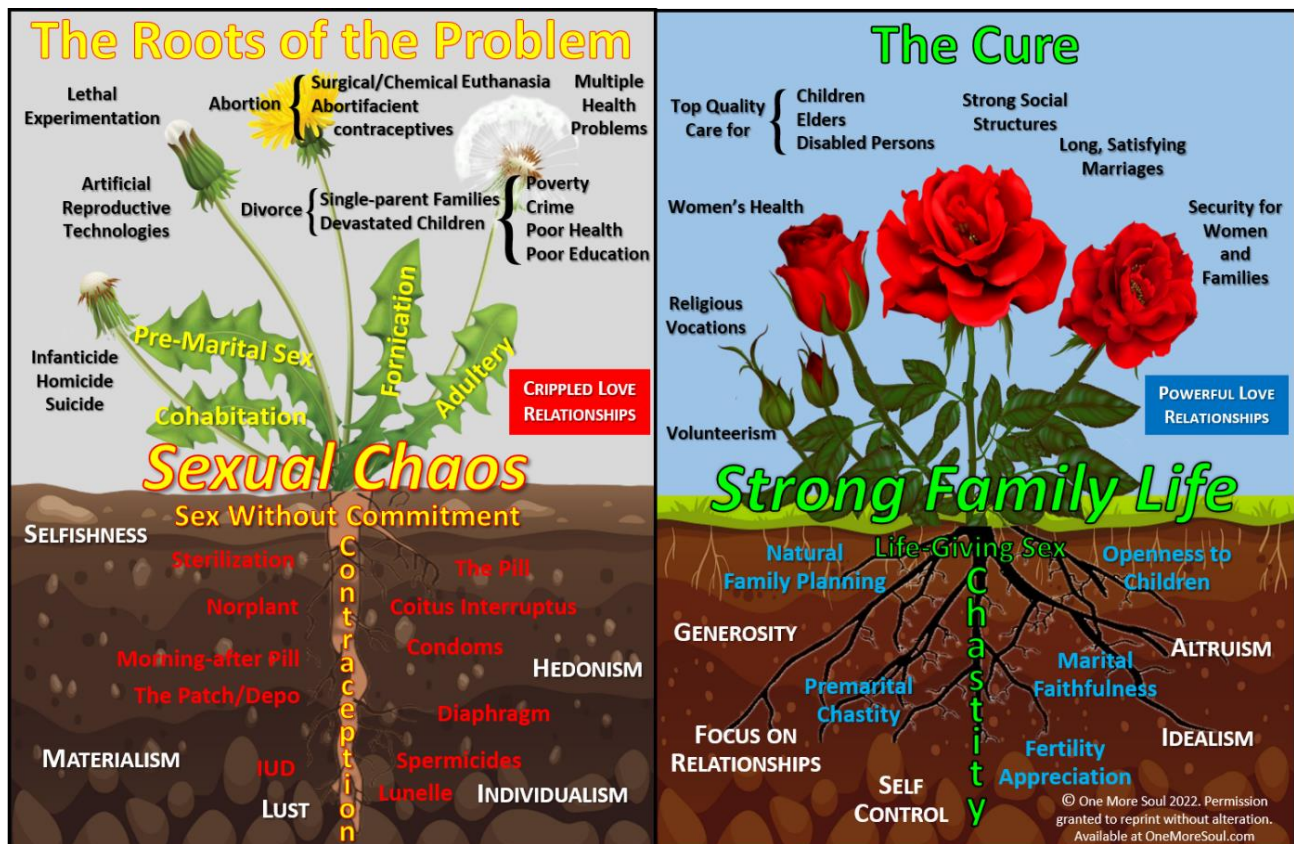
Building the *Civilization of Love* One Life at a Time!

Openness to Children

by Vince Sacksteder

On One More Soul's "Dandelion and Rose" poster below, near the roots of the rose are five strategies for building the Civilization of Love. They are Openness to Children, Premarital Chastity, Natural Family Planning, Marital Faithfulness, and Fertility Appreciation. The more I think about these, the more I realize that each one is a powerful tool for building the Civilization of Love. We can all do something (or even lots of

More Soul had been using Natural Family Planning for years to postpone having another child. She and her husband finally decided to give fertility a chance. Their child, Faith Elizabeth, is with us now. What a joy! Some of us married folk may be feeling the call to welcome another child into our family. Listen to the Spirit; this may be the perfect time! Even if you are past childbearing age, or single, there are still great opportunities to



things) to make a difference and openness to children is a great place to start.

First, look inside yourself. How much do you treasure children? One woman who helped at One

welcome children. Smile or wave when you see a child. Coo at babies. Never let a harried mother get by without a friendly word. Actively look for opportunities to help young families. For example,

a single person or childless couple could “adopt” a family (or vice versa) by helping with baby-sitting, participating in birthday celebrations, and so on. This kind of practical love is the foundation of the *Civilization of Love*.

Second, look around you. Nearly everyone of childbearing age is pressured by our culture to contracept. This means your brothers and sisters, your nieces and nephews, and all your neighbors. There are medical doctors in my family who freely prescribe contraceptives. People simply don't know the dreadful things contraceptives do to people's bodies and relationships. We can help! Be alert for opportunities. Build strong relationships with those around you, and then, at the right moment, don't be afraid to speak the truth in love. God will take care of the rest. Take every chance you get to talk about the blessings of having children. My wife and I have eleven on earth and maybe others in heaven. Believe me, I know that childcare doesn't always feel like a blessing, but these children are our greatest joy on earth. Speaking about the blessings of children is a breath of fresh air in our dark world. It sinks into people's souls and lifts them up. If you need ideas about what to say, our website (onemoresoul.com) is loaded with them, and we are here to help.

Third, look at organizations. Newspapers, churches, schools, etc., offer wonderful opportunities to spread the message of how good children are and how much trouble contraceptives cause. After all, without children, the human family disappears, and contraception is a factor in at least half the divorces in the US. Whenever the newspaper runs a “news” piece about how great contraceptives are for women, write a letter telling the truth. When there is news about horrors like a young mom abandoning her infant in a dumpster, write a letter about the supreme gift that children are. Get to know teachers, school board members, etc. and get the truth into the schools. Work with your pastor to support him in getting the truth out. Do what it takes to elect government officials who will act according to the truth. Sometimes whole organizations (e.g., Knights of Columbus, Elks) can help spread the message. There are great opportunities!

The task is huge, but the good news is that there are many of us to work on it. Every one of us can make an important difference. Even better, God is on our side. We know how much He loves life. Through His grace, we can transform our world!