

CONTRACEPTION

By definition a contraceptive is something either physical or pharmaceutical, which prevents conception. Literally, the word contraception means *against conception* but the term is very loosely applied to tablets and other devices, which do *not* prevent conception, but kill, or prevent the developing embryo from living, at an early stage. It is not our intention to deal with every aspect of contraception in this booklet, but simply to point out two common, so-called methods of contraception, which are not what they purport to be.

The intrauterine contraceptive device (IUCD), commonly known as the coil.

The mechanism of action of this so-called contraceptive device is not to *prevent* conception, but prevent an early embryo implanting in the womb. It works by continually irritating the lining of the womb preventing the embryo implanting. Some IUCD's or coils, have copper wire wound around them. The copper makes the device more effective because copper ions are toxic to an early embryo.

The "morning after pill"

This too, is wrongly described as a contraceptive. It consists of a very high dose of a female hormone, which causes the lining of the womb to be shed, thus if conception has occurred, the resulting embryo will be unable to implant in the lining of the womb and survive. Like the IUCD, the "morning after pill" does *not* prevent conception.

There is great ignorance in the general population as to how these *contraceptives* work. The medical profession are not quick to point this out. But if life begins at conception, as the Scriptures declare, then the use of either of these falls foul of the Law of God.