

The Practical Theology of Surrogacy and Self



Conceiving Family: A Practical Theology of Surrogacy and Self by Danielle Tumminio Hansen

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Surrogacy is a complex practice that raises a number of ethical, legal, and spiritual questions. As a result, there is a growing body of literature that explores the practical theology of surrogacy. This article provides a comprehensive overview of the theological perspectives on surrogacy, from the traditional views to the more progressive and nuanced approaches. It explores the ethical, legal, and spiritual dimensions of this complex practice, and offers insights for those who are considering surrogacy.

Traditional Theological Views

Traditional theological views on surrogacy have tended to be negative. These views often draw on the belief that procreation should take place within the context of a traditional marriage between a man and a woman. As a result, surrogacy is often seen as a violation of natural law and morality.

Some traditionalists also argue that surrogacy is exploitative of women. They worry that women who act as surrogates may be coerced into doing so, or that they may not fully understand the risks and implications of surrogacy. Additionally, some traditionalists argue that surrogacy damages the family unit, as it creates a situation in which a child has more than two parents.

Progressive and Nuanced Theological Views

In recent years, there has been a growing number of progressive and nuanced theological views on surrogacy. These views often draw on the belief that procreation is a matter of human choice, and that surrogacy can be a valuable option for those who are unable to conceive a child on their own.

Progressive theologians also argue that surrogacy can be a mutually beneficial arrangement for all parties involved. They point out that surrogacy can allow intended parents to have a child that they would not otherwise be able to have, and it can provide surrogates with financial compensation and the opportunity to help others.

Some progressive theologians also argue that surrogacy can actually strengthen the family unit. They point out that surrogacy can allow intended parents to build a family that is based on love and mutual respect, and it can provide children with a stable and loving home environment.

Ethical, Legal, and Spiritual Dimensions

In addition to the theological perspectives on surrogacy, there are also a number of ethical, legal, and spiritual dimensions to this complex practice.

Ethical Dimensions

The ethical dimensions of surrogacy include the issues of consent, exploitation, and the welfare of the child. It is important to ensure that all parties involved in surrogacy have given their fully informed consent, and that they are not being coerced or exploited. Additionally, it is important to consider the welfare of the child, and to make sure that the child is born into a stable and loving home environment.

Legal Dimensions

The legal dimensions of surrogacy vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. In some jurisdictions, surrogacy is legal and regulated, while in other jurisdictions it is illegal or unregulated. It is important to be aware of the legal landscape in your jurisdiction before considering surrogacy.

Spiritual Dimensions

The spiritual dimensions of surrogacy include the issues of faith, meaning, and purpose. For some people, surrogacy can be a deeply spiritual experience that helps them to fulfill their calling to parenthood. For others, surrogacy can be a more secular experience that is focused on the practical aspects of having a child.

Surrogacy is a complex practice that raises a number of ethical, legal, and spiritual questions. It is important to be aware of the different perspectives on surrogacy, and to make informed decisions about whether or not surrogacy is right for you.

If you are considering surrogacy, it is important to seek out professional counseling and support. A therapist or counselor can help you to explore

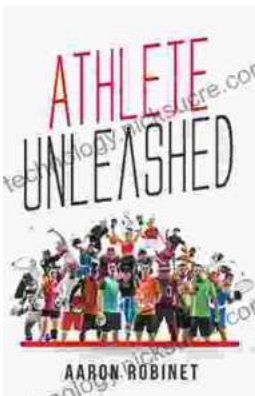
your motivations for surrogacy, and to make sure that you are prepared for the challenges and rewards of this journey.



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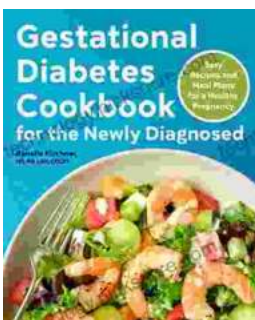
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