

6/15/2025

## **Sermon – Be Fruitful and Multiply**

**Scripture – Genesis 1:21-28, 8:15-22**

**Main Message – Overpopulation isn't the problem – the lack of Fathers is.**

There is a long list of things to worry about in this world. I'm going to add one more to the list. However, I don't expect that this one will keep you up at night. It is a new trend in the modern industrialized world. It is skipping out on doing something that God told us to do from the beginning. It is to be Fruitful and Multiply. Japan's population has been shrinking since 2008. Korea's fertility rate is at 0.8. It is estimated that a fertility rate just to break even needs to be **around 2.1**. Europe is falling behind at 1.3-1.6. The latest for the U.S. is 1.62 births per woman. We are on the way to becoming like Japan where nearly 30% of the population is over 65 and 15% over 75. You may be thinking, Great... there are too many people in the world anyway. That is false. Between 2007-2010 we finally had equal numbers of people living in cities vs rurally. City overcrowding may be an issue, but leaders appreciate all those people in big cities. The only locations growing are the ones that are underdeveloped and can't support the population which end up migrating. Many European nations cultures are in decline, and the future of nations can become unstable if the population is elderly. Soon, the normal retirement age in the world will be 70 or never.

### **Read Genesis Scripture**

So, why is this happening. It's a host of reasons, but a key one is that people simply aren't doing what God said to do. Be Fruitful and Multiply. In Japan, both men and women just aren't interested in marriage at all. Period. In the U.S., men aren't getting married now until 30 years old. Having Children cost \$300K per kid to get them to 18. Housing costs to live in are high. Job uncertainty plays a big role for many. Finally, why bother to get married, have children when divorce robs everyone of a life of fulfillment. This is a rising trend in the U.S. Men just can't be bothered to navigate the minefield of relationships in an era. Woman don't want to be saddled with childcare and want careers outside the home. To me it appears to be "selfishness" that is undermining modern countries around the world.

Perhaps this is why God says to be fruitful and multiply. Few can learn about sacrifice and discover a more profound maturity without the responsibility of raising their own children. It isn't easy, it is expensive, it is demanding, it is frustrating, and it will impact your life in ways beyond understanding. It is also imperative that we do not lose sight of what God has said.

We don't actually have an overpopulation problem, We have a lack of Godly Fathers problem who are able to sacrifice and keep the fires burning here and around the world.