Today, any time you see a visual work that puts mothers, fathers and children on a pedestal or is designed to instill feelings of admiration for such themes, it invariably arises from the bedrock of pronatalism values in the culture.

Just like with music, you don’t have to look around to see pronatalism in public murals, posters and in galleries.

These cultural expressions keep pronatalism alive and well, underneath are core attitudes and beliefs based on the assumptions of pronatalism.

**The Destiny Assumption**

- The first pronatalist assumption that deserves a look at has to do with the fate in our life.
- Pronatalist dogma tells us that everyone is destined to become parents – were supposed to want them eventually

**Biological element**

*“We have a biological instinct to have children” – from an early age were taught that we’ll grow up and have children one day*

- Women in particular are given strong messages that they are wired to have children and want them
- There told that they will experience an uncontrollable urge from deep within calling them to become mothers and fulfil their biological purpose
- Women are led to believe that this urge is primitive and has been hard wired via evolution, given birth is a basic human need.
- Birds know how to build nests, newborn sea turtles know how to walk into the ocean, so do human beings having instincts?
- “Humans no longer have instincts because we have the ability to override them in certain situations” – Maslow.
- Some expect people that the desire for sex constitutes a biological instinct or primal urge. This may have been true in earlier times, but as evolution has evolved, having sex was not something people automatically did, they chose to engage in it
- Sex and pregnancy according to Maslow are behaviors that can be over ridden
- There is no real evidence to support the notion that everyone has a biological instinct for the desire to bear children. Ellen Peck “Conception is biological, pregnancy is biological. Parenthood is psychological in application”
- Just because we have the biological ability to conceive and bear children does not mean we have an instinctive desire to become parents or even have the ability to parent.
- We know that chemical reactions happen in the brain of mothers once the babies are born, egg with scent etc. and brain activity
- But is there a desire in the brain activity to have a baby to begin with?
- LuAnn Brazening calls “baby lust – the deep felt hunger to have a child”
- Brazening contends that certain smells, like the smell of an infant’s head, carry pheromones that stimulate a woman’s brain to produce “the potent love potion oxytocin – creating a chemical reaction that induces baby lust”
- That somehow is “natures sneak attack to trigger the desire to have a baby”
- If the brain worked in this way to create longing, the urge, all women would end up feeling this way – but they don’t.
items causing ‘unlawful abortion’ did not apply to physicians who used the items to protect the health of patients.

- The right to privacy in Griswold vs Connecticut only applied to married relationships; only married couples could pose contraception
- In 1972 – Eisenstadt v Baird finally extended the same contraceptive rights to unmarried people.
- Justice William Brennan “If the right of privacy means anything, it is the right of the individual to be free from unwarranted governmental intrusion into matters so fundamentally affecting from a person as the decision whether to bear or beget a child”
- These rulings took the eye off procreation and on to individual rights regarding intercourse and reproduction. In the context of marriage, they made it legally legitimate for marriage not to be inextricably connected to children
- The social context of the timing of Grisworld v Connecticut supported the legal unraveling of the bond between marriage and procreation.

**The Alternative Assumption**

“People marry as a way to bring them happiness and fulfillment in life”

- These legal, social and even religious developments show us we are well on our way to fully letting go of the old pronatalist assumption regarding the purpose of marriage
- According to the 2007 report by Pew Research Centre “there has been a distinct weakening of the link between marriage and parenthood”
- In 1990, PRC surveyed people about what is very important to marriage, including areas such as faithfulness, happy sexual relationship, adequate income etc
- Respondents ranked children as 3rd important concern; children were ranked next to last.
- Without expectations, the bond between marriage and parenthood is fully released from pronatalist drag
- Couples are free to choose whether they want parenthood to be a part of their marital experience
- Without expectations, we can also let go of the other pronatalist belief that parenthood should be part of every person’s experience of life.

**The Right to Reproduce Assumption**

“Everyone has the right to have children”

- One of pronatalisms strongest assumptions has had to do with a person’s individual rights to reproduce
- Today, the notion that everyone has the right to have a child does not just relate to those who are biologically capable of having children
- For centuries pronatalism has driven the strong societal consensus in favor of the right to procreate
- It promotes the notions that its only natural for humans to want to produce offspring and its every person’s natural born right to produce those offspring.
- Pronatalist thinking says that its our duty to our lineage and the world to have children; not only something we are all here to do, but also our obligation to perpetuate our family line and the human species.