

Gray Matters

pt. 4 – Send in the Clones

MBC October 26, 2014 – Pastor Barry R. Mulligan

BIOETHICS – APPLYING ETHICS TO THE FIELD OF MEDICINE, HEALTHCARE, & SCIENCE

(eugenics) genetic engineering, artificial insemination, IVF (in vitro fertilization), surrogate mothers, organ transplant, organ harvesting, gene-splicing, cryogenics, stem cell research, cloning

KEEP IN MIND...

I. You need to **Discern** the worldview behind a bioethical argument or you will miss the conclusions

CONFLICT OF WORLDVIEWS:

Judeo-Christian & Secular **Humanism**

Evolution is **Intertwined** in bioethical discussions.

II. The **Same** arguments we use to show that abortion & euthanasia are wrong apply to bioethics.

Every Human Life has a **Soul**. 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Matthew 10:28

Suffering is **NOT** meaningless. Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 12:11

There are **Natural** limits to life. Psalm 90:10, Ecclesiastes 3:1-3

God is **Sovereign** over life & death. Job 1:21 cf. Genesis 2:16-17; Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27

We are made in **God's** image at conception. Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1-2

Chart #4 – Judeo-Christian & Secular Humanism Worldviews

JUDEO-CHRISTIAN	SECULAR HUMANISM
There is a Creator	There is no Creator
Humankind was specially created	Humankind evolved from animals
God is sovereign over life	Humankind is sovereign over life
Sanctity of life is a key principle	Quality of life is a key principle
The end does not justify the means	The end justifies the means

Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues & Options, Geisler, Norman L., p. 180-181

BASIC PRINCIPLES & DECISION-MAKING GUIDELINES:

- Dignity/**Sanctity** of Human Life (made in God's image)
- Principle of **Greater** Good (following the higher ethic when two conflict)
- Principle of **Double** Effect – if one action has two effects, then it is necessary to will (desire) the good effect (e.g., saving a life) even though a second [bad] effect will follow from that action (e.g., amputating a leg).
Christian Ethics: Contemporary Issues & Options, Geisler, Norman L., p. 408
- **Mortality** of Life
- **Sovereignty** of God
 - Voluntary vs. Compulsory Procedures
 - Mercifully Allowing Death vs. Mercy Killing
 - Preserving Life vs. Prolonging Death
 - Birth Control vs. Abortion
 - Correcting vs. Creating Life