



What Are the Moral Implication of Bioethics?

"It seems like everyday there are all these new things happening and new ways to do things, especially when it comes to medicine and science. Stem cell research, cloning, euthanasia and reproduction technology. Where does God fit into all of it?"

We live in a complex world where man has teamed with science to make tremendous medical advancements. As Christians, we have to be very careful we don't allow this progress to blind us from what God says about life, and how we need to protect each person's right to live. God is the Creator. He loves life and His creation. We need to understand that we can never compromise the quality of one's life, especially for the benefit of improving another's. God loves all mankind equally, the rich and the poor, the happy and sad, the healthy and sick. All are equally valuable to God and all must be valued and protected by us all.

Abortion, cloning, stem cell research, euthanasia, end of life decisions and reproduction technology are all involved in bioethics. Ethics means custom or character and are the sentiment, moral nature or guiding beliefs of a person or group. In other words, ethics are a system of measuring right and wrong. Bioethics is the study of ethical problems arising from scientific advances, especially in biology and medicine. If a group does not believe in God, then the ethics set by the group might not line up with what God has said in the Bible.

Man's value systems are forever changing and inconsistent, which causes the underlining problem in bioethics: who is setting the standard? God or man? If we claim to be God's children by faith in Him, resulting in obedience to His commands, then we have no choice but to try to mirror Christ all the time, regardless of the timing or circumstances (Isaiah 55:8, 9; Isaiah 58:2; Romans 2:14-15). Genesis 9:6 *"Whoever sheds the blood of man; by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."*

This passage makes it clear that we are never to shed blood (kill) another to cover for someone's mistakes, or to medically cure another person. Many in the world will tell you that abortion and embryonic stem cell research are acceptable procedures, because life doesn't start until birth. God would disagree. Life begins when an egg is fertilized and God clearly confirms this in His Word (Psalm 139). Interestingly, God's Word would support adult stem cell research, because no life needs to be taken in the process. Embryonic stem cell research is against God's will because it requires the destruction of an unborn baby.

Cloning is asexual reproduction in which an exact genetic copy of another plant, animal, or human is made through laboratory process. In other words, it is man making another man without the God given process of reproduction being completed. Job 33:4 says, *"The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."* There have been no positive outcomes from cloning attempts. Cloning is dangerous because there are a multitude of complications. The practice also turns human life into a commodity. Keep in mind, throwing away fertilized eggs in reproductive technology destroys life and is unacceptable in the eyes of our Holy God.

Christians have no choice but to speak out and fight for justice concerning all mankind. Each human being is made in God's image and has an inestimable value that must be guarded! Jesus said, *"I have come that they might have life and have it to the full"* (John 10:10).