

Apologetics

Cloning (Pr 6:16-19)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Good to see everyone once again
2. Series of lessons on "Apologetics"
 - a. Last week we looked at "Embryonic Stem Cell Research"
3. Genetic Engineering is...
 - a. Merriam-Webster's Dic. "The group of applied techniques of genetics and biotechnology used to cut up and join together genetic material and especially DNA from one or more species of organism and to introduce the result into an organism in order to change one or more of its characteristics."
 - b. In other words it is the science of genetic manipulation
4. A few of the sizzling topics is that of "Cloning" and "Embryonic Stem Cell Research"
 - a. For today's lesson we will take a close look at "Cloning" and its relationship with God's Word.

I. Background On Cloning

- A. Cloning Defined
 1. Derived from Greek word "klon" meaning sprout or twig
 2. Thus in science refers to an asexual process of reproduction resulting in an exact genetic duplication of the original.
 - i. "...cloning is a way to grow many identical cells or organisms from a single ancestor." (Fort Worth Lectureship 2000 Burt Thompson pg 205)
- B. History of cloning
 1. The early years
 - i. Hans Dreisch in the late 1800's cloned sea urchins
 - a. Shook the 2 celled embryo until the cells separated
 - b. Both cells then developed into 2 cell embryos thus cloning
 - ii. Scientist in Philadelphia cloned frog embryos
 - a. Nov 1951
 2. More recently
 - i. In 1986 two teams one English led by Steen Willadsen & other American led by Neal First cloned mammal embryos for the first time
 - a. England – sheep
 - b. America – cow
 - ii. Ian Wilmut a Scottish scientist cloned a ewe by the name of Dolly
 - a. July 5, 1996
 - b. First mammal cloned using differentiated cells

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3. How cloning works “simple version”
 - i. First a differentiated cell is taken and starved of nurturance
 - a. Differentiated meaning adult cell
 1. Diff. cells have already become specific cells such as hair, skin, blood and so on. They have turned off the “mechanism” that allows them to change again like a stem cell
 2. Undiff. cells “stem cells” can become any specific cell
 - b. This put the cell into a hibernation state
 - ii. Second an unfertilized egg cell is taken and the nucleolus is removed
 - a. Everything else is left
 - iii. Third the differ. cell is placed next to the egg cell
 - a. Short electrical burst are applied
 - b. The 2 join giving the egg cell a complete DNA make up already
 - iv. This is known as Nuclear Transfer
 - a. Sounds easy but isn’t

II. Reasons Why Cloning Is Beneficial

- A. Help with animal commercialism
 1. Dairy farmer that has the “best” producer
 2. Multiple ones of the best
- B. Help with our knowledge
 1. As Burt Thompson put it, “cloning has the potential to enlarge our knowledge about how cells differentiate and reproduce. Using the information gleaned from the study of the cell during cloning, scientist believe they can learn more about why cancer cells grow out of control, or why birth defects occur. In short, cloning does hold forth immense potential in many different areas and used properly, could offer tremendous benefits to mankind.” (Fort Worth Lectureship 2000 Burt Thompson pg 206)

[The operative words being “used properly.”]

III. Will Humans Be Cloned?

[The question “will” we be able to is not the same as “should” we]

- A. Will we be able to?
 1. The sheer attempting of it is not science fiction anymore
 - i. May 22, 1998 “Advanced Cell Technology” announced that a human being had been cloned in its laboratory.
 - ii. They actually took a human differentiated cell and combined it with a cow egg using nuclear transference
 - a. It lived to the 32 cell stage before be destroyed
 2. Prompted many groups to protest
 - i. Wayne Jackson’s article entitled “Scientist Xerox First Human”

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- ii. In the July 19 2001 issue of Natural the editor commented
 - a. “Advanced Cell Technology (ACT) of Worcester, Massachusetts says it is trying to generate human embryos by cloning, and then harvest ES {embryonic stem} cells from them. The company hopes to sidestep moral objections, as fertilization is not involved. Indeed, the chair of ACT’s ethical advisory board argues that an embryo created in this way is not a bona fide embryo, and suggests the term “ovumsum.” The procedure that ACT is experimenting with, known as therapeutic cloning, might one day prove useful in generating ES cells that are genetically matched to patients requiring tissue grafts. **But to suggest that it does not involve the creation of embryos is misleading.**”
(<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/2877>)
- 3. Will God allow a human “dolly”
 - i. Though I do not think so the truth is the technology is there today
 - ii. That does not make it right
 - iii. One thing we do know though is that if a human “dolly” is created he/she will still have a soul and will still be subject to God’s Word.
 - a. **Ja 2:26** (life apart from spirit is dead)

[Now to the question “should” we clone humans]

IV. What Is The Fuss About Cloning Humans

- A. The process can’t sustain precious life
 - 1. Dolly was the first out of 277 tries
 - i. 277 embryos or baby ewes died first
 - 2. This is unacceptable with mankind
 - 3. God hates the shedding of innocent life because He loves those made in His image
 - i. **Pr 6:16-17; Ac 17:25**
 - 4. Even the most basic medical ethics requires that the subject must...
 - i. Know the risks involved
 - ii. Give informed consent
 - a. Babies can’t do either
 - iii. Also be benefited by the experiment
 - 5. These “experiments” go against even basic medical ethics
- B. It will be used to circumvent God’s plan for reproduction
 - 1. God said marriage then children
 - i. **I Ti 5:14** (young widows “marry, bear children...)
 - 2. Women’s liberation would be complete
 - i. Have been saying for years no need for man
 - ii. **Gn 2:24** (man be joined with wife become one)

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- C. It could be used to “dehumanize” humans
 - 1. Large batches of human clones could be made for statistical studies or worse
 - i. Have we gone so far as to suggest such things today...yes
 - ii. Many have suggested having clones made in order to “harvest” parts
 - a. Movie “The Island” portrays this very thing
 - iii. Have we forgot how precious life is to God
 - a. **Jn 3:16; He 12:2**

CONCLUSION

- 1. What amazes me about this subject is how many of those that believe not in God seem to have a better ethical or moral understanding than many Christians today.
 - a. Evolutionist Gunther Stent of the University of Southern California stated, “The idea of cloning humans is morally and aesthetically completely unacceptable.
 - b. Christian ethicist Randy Harris of David Lipscomb University stated, “Although there has been a good deal of rhetoric on the evils that are just ahead, I have yet to hear a cogent ethical argument as to why even the cloning of a human would be wrong.”
 - i. If God’s love for life or the reality of circumventing God’s plan for the family is not a “cogent ethical argument” I guess I just don’t know what would be.
- 2. It is time we as Christians stand up against “all” the immoral injustices that are about us today here in America.
 - a. This can only be done by first understanding them.
- 3. This principle is true with all of God’s Word...we must study it to know it to obey it.
- 4. Invitation
 - a. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**