

Apologetics

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

(Is 43:4)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Last series of lessons were on "Old Testament Lessons."
 - a. This new series will be on "Apologetics"
 - i. Apologetics simply is "a branch of theology devoted to the defense of the divine origin and authority of Christianity" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - b. Thus we will be looking at those ideas that attack against divine origin and authority.
3. Let us look at this most needed topic.

I. Embryonic Stem Cell Research Hot Topic Today

- A. Hot political topic
 1. Bush had always denied the right to expand research in this field.
 - i. He had first said no federal funding then in 2001 gave limited federal funding
 2. Our current President, Barak Obama, is currently for Embryonic Stem Cell Research.
- B. Hot media topic
 1. Can't watch hardly any world or national news w/o some story on the great potential of ES cell research.
 2. The "high society" club has been throwing their 2 cents into mix.
 - i. Michael J Fox with Parkinson's disease
 - ii. Christopher Reeves with Paralysis
 - iii. Those with Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes...
- C. This research is gaining fast momentum
 1. More and more people are become exceptive of it.
 2. Six Step Attitude Plan For A Country
 - i. Debates by "Respected experts" in a "Respected Form"
 - ii. As topics are debated people are shocked to even hear about them.
 - a. Homosexuality in the 50's...
 - iii. People debate that they should even be debated.
 - a. Thus giving them more exposure.
 - iv. The sheer repetition of the debate dulls its effect.
 - v. Now people are no longer shocked.
 - a. Divorce, homosexuality, immorality...
 - vi. No longer any outrage, people start making excuses for it and it becomes accepted.
 - a. "Mechanical Instruments"
 3. So the need for sermons and understanding of this subject is necessary.

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II. What Is Embryonic Stem Cell Research?

- A. Embryonic Stem Cell
 1. Are cells that are undifferentiated ie can become any of the 220 cells that make up the body
- B. Embryonic Stem Cell research
 1. Embryos are taken allowed to live for 4 to 5 days.
 2. After this time the embryo's stem cells are removed.
 3. They are taken from the "inner cell mass."
- C. Once they are taken
 1. They are used to study to try and find cures for many things.

III. Where Do Researchers Get ES Cells From?

- A. Production Line
 1. Pay women to undergo fertility enhancement to produce many eggs to harvest them and cell them to be fertilized and killed for their stem cells
 2. Created embryos by cloning for cell to researchers
- B. Lines already in use
 1. In Vitro Fertilization [IVF]
 2. Some Artificial Insemination techniques
- C. Closer look at In Vitro Fertilization
 1. Woman goes through a process to produce many eggs
 - i. Doctors want about 30 eggs
 2. Doctors take the eggs and fertilize them in a lab
 3. Doc. look at the 30 embryos and select the "best" 7 to 8 for insemination
 - i. The rest are discarded or frozen
 4. Did u catch what happen...

IV. What Does God Say On The Subject?

- A. God is not silent on this subject
 1. **II Pt 1:3** "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue"
 2. **II Ti 3:16-17** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- B. God cares for all life
 1. He sent His Son to die for all life
 - i. **Jn 3:16** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 2. Jesus gave His life joyfully
 - i. **He 12:2** " looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

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3. All life is precious to Him
 - i. **Is 43:4** "Since you were precious in My sight, You have been honored, And I have loved you; Therefore I will give men for you, And people for your life."
 - a. Cliff note: **Mt 6:25-33**
 4. The Godhead created life not to be considered cheap.
 - i. **Gn 2:7** "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."
 - ii. **Ex 21:22-23** "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine."
- C. The craziest part about the ES Cells is what the true research shows.
1. First they is extremely difficult to use.
 - i. Science Journey late 2004 " Unlocking the therapeutic potential of embryonic stem (ES) cells has remained a **tantalizing but elusive goal... There are numerous hurdles to using ES cells as therapeutic tools**. These include the need for reliable ES cell differentiation protocols for different cell lineages, purification techniques for the differentiated progeny, **as well as ways to circumvent the immunological rejection of transplanted cells. Given the complexity of these multiple steps, it is not surprising that there are few clear examples of in vivo ES cell therapy for treating disease-related phenotypes.**" (<http://tinyurl.com/3nls87>)
 2. Second they cause more problems than they fix.
 - i. Gretchen Vogel in "Strike Two For Transplants" wrote, "For the second time, cells transplanted from fetuses into brains of Parkinson's patients have failed to show a significant effect." (Ibid)
 - ii. She went on to say that the study " failed to produce significant improvements in patients' movement, **but caused serious side effects in more than half the patients.**" (Ibid)
 3. Third adult stem cells are far better than es cells.
 - i. "Forget the media hype, and flush the political mantra. What is the truth regarding stem-cell research? **Truth be told, adult stem cells have shown far greater promise—without the tumors, mutations, and rejection problems.**" (Ibid)

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CONCLUSION

1. T.J. Bach once wrote, “Science has attempted to establish the security of the world; however, with the latest discoveries of science the insecurity of the world has been established.”
 - a. I would like to add to that “it is less secure because Christians are most ignorant.”
 - b. We hide behind many things and stand up for little to nothing it seems and we are where we are today because of this reason.
 - i. It is time we stand up
 - ii. It is time to not be ignorant anymore
 - iii. It is time to “prove all things” – **I Th 5:21**
 1. Let us come to the knowledge of all things by testing them to see if they are true.
2. 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**