



Issue: What is human cloning? Why does the Church teach that cloning is immoral?

Response: Cloning is a form of artificial reproduction in which the offspring produced is genetically identical to the individual from whom he or she originated. Human cloning is immoral because it attacks the dignity of human procreation and because it is an affront to the dignity of the individuals involved in cloning.

What Is Cloning?

Cloning is a form of artificial reproduction in which the offspring produced is genetically identical to the individual from whom he or she originated. Natural human reproduction entails both a male-female sexual union and the union of gametes: male and female germ cells (i.e., sperm and eggs) that can fuse together through fertilization to form offspring.

In cloning, reproduction is achieved without sexual union and without the union of gametes. Although the term “cloning” has several meanings, the word “cloning” typically refers to a four step process involving the transfer of a cell nucleus.

Even though the offspring produced by cloning may be a perfect physical replica of the individual who donated the somatic cell, the offspring is a distinct human person, for the offspring possesses a distinct spiritual soul created directly by God.

The Immorality of Human Cloning

The Church teaches, “any type of cloning is to be considered illicit which implies the creation or splitting of embryos, no matter what techniques are used or what aims are pursued.” Human cloning is immoral because it attacks the dignity of human procreation and because it is an affront to the dignity of the individuals involved.

God has willed an inseparable connection, “which man on his own initiative may not break, between the unitive significance and the procreative significance which are both inherent to the marriage act” (*Humanae Vitae*, no. 12). Methods of reproduction that result in offspring apart from acts of marital union are immoral because they, too, dissociate the ends of marriage.

In vitro fertilization departs from God’s plan for human reproduction because it dispenses with the act of marital union; cloning departs even farther from God’s plan because it takes the additional step of dispensing with human gametes. In obliterating the necessity of male and female gametes, cloning “represents a radical manipulation of the constitutive relationality and complementarity which [are] at the origin of human procreation.” “The basic relationships of the human person are perverted: filiation, consanguinity, kinship, parenthood. A woman can be the twin sister of her mother, lack a biological father, and be the daughter of her grandfather.”

Human cloning is also an affront to the dignity of the individuals involved. The primary end of marriage is the procreation and education of children, but husbands must never look upon their wives simply “as a means for the gratification of passion, or for the production of offspring” (Pope Leo XIII, encyclical letter, *Arcanum*, no. 7). In the nuclear-transfer cloning process described above, on the other hand, women—whether wives or surrogates—“are radically exploited and reduced to a few of their purely biological functions (providing the ova and a womb).”

Even more, cloning is an affront to the dignity of the individuals who result from cloning. Cloned individuals are deprived of the dignity of sonship, the dignity of being the fruit of the self-giving of a father and a mother. The cloning of a single individual generally entails the wanton destruction of numerous human lives.

- Excerpt from ***Cloning: An Affront to Human Dignity***

Jan/Feb 2005 Issue of Lay Witness Magazine, Catholics United for the Faith

“I am speaking of a tragic spiral of death which includes murder, suicide, abortion, euthanasia.... To this list we must add irresponsible practices of genetic engineering, such as the cloning and use of human embryos for research, which are justified by an illegitimate appeal to freedom, to cultural progress, to the advancement of mankind. When the weakest and most vulnerable members of society are subjected to such atrocities, the very idea of the human family, built on the value of the person, on trust, respect and mutual support, is dangerously eroded. A civilization based on love and peace must oppose these experiments, which are unworthy of man.”

- St. John Paul II

Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Peace

Jan, 2001

Prayer for Respect of Life

Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life.

Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others. We ask this in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church
Spiritual Adoption Program 2014
Month 8

In the January, 2014 Life Notes, we invited all parishioners to join as one voice in prayer in the Spiritual Adoption Program. (See brochures in Pro-Life information rack.) The following prayer was recommended by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen to be said every day for a period of one year to spare the life of a baby in danger of abortion:

*“Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much.
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted,
who is in danger of abortion.”*

For new readers, during the next nine months, we will highlight the developmental stages of our spiritually adopted parish baby. Please refer to online sources of hearts4life.org & lifeissues.org

Saturday, August 2nd, 2014 – Hi, Holy Rosary people. I am your spiritually adopted baby. How are you? I’m now growing into my eighth month of life in my mommy’s womb. I am now almost 18in long and weigh almost 6lbs! And if I move or kick, it can be seen from the outside. My lungs are almost fully developed, I can turn my head, grasp firmly, and I also respond to sounds, light & touch. I’m growing fast and I’m starting to run out of room! Thank you all for your continued prayers for me, my mommy and my daddy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 16 - Helpers of God's Precious Infants Prayer Vigil
- August 20 - Right to Life Mass, Terre Haute
- August 23 - Faithful Citizens Rosary Procession (For more info contact Eric at faithful.citizens2016@gmail.com)

Resources & Information

The National Catholic Bioethics Center - ncbcenter.org

The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity - <https://cbhd.org/>

Cloning: A Catholic Moral Evaluation - <http://dft.ba/-cloning1>

The Ethics of Cloning - <http://dft.ba/-cloning2>

lifeissues.org/cloningstemcell/index.html

USCCB’s list of online resources on cloning - <http://dft.ba/-usccbcloning>

Dignitas personae (Instruction on Certain Bioethical Questions) - <http://dft.ba/-DIGNITASPERSONAE>

USCCB Pro-Life Chair Responds to Cloning Breakthrough in Oregon - <http://usccb.org/news/2013/13-094.cfm>

Glorious St Albert, guide to good purpose the inventors and scientists. Intercede for modern science and technology to be used responsibly and ethically in the service of life, justice and peace. Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us. *Life Notes is a publication of the Holy Rosary Pro-Life Committee
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