

What About Cloning?

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A recent book, "In the Beginning, There Was Dolly," says:

"The lamb has always been a symbol of innocence. This changed abruptly in the spring of 1997. Dolly, a barely three-month-old sheep, hit the headlines, displacing politicians and pop stars from the front pages of newspapers and magazines. Overnight, the fluffy white lamb of innocence had become a symbol of threat to human society through an eerie new technology — cloning."

Why all the fuss? It's because Dolly was a genetically identical copy of an adult sheep — a clone. She was the first clone of a mammal in our society. On February 24, 1997 scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland announced they had successfully cloned a sheep. Given the name Dolly she set the scientific community on its ear, clearly demonstrating that what many had said was impossible was not. As believers in the Bible we certainly don't want to decry all technology, like those who lamely say, "If God had meant man to fly He'd given him wings." But Dolly leaves us to wonder how long it will be until someone clones a human being, and what the ramifications of that are, and whether such is even right in God's eyes. Dear friend, I'm afraid that its coming. It is time we ask the most important question any one can ask about Dolly, cloning, or genetic engineering: What does the Bible say about it? What does the Bible say about cloning? This study explores the answer to this question.

With the successful reproduction of Dolly the sheep many ethical questions were raised concerning the matter of cloning especially in relationship to humans. Are you humans next on the cloning list? Is it possible that our world is moving into a new era where people will begin to be cloned in petri dishes and then placed in the womb of women to grow? Will it be possible to get DNA from dead ancestors and reproduce them? Dr. E.A. Carlson of UCLA claims there may be enough DNA in King Tut's mummy to make a "new Tut." The major reason for the fear of human clones is that in today's "evolutionized" world, there is no dividing line between the animal kingdom and humans, so according to man the same ethical standards apply to

dealings with both. How do we judge cloning according to the Bible? Before answering this question we will first give a definition and some biological background of cloning.

The Definition of Cloning

Webster defines cloning in this way: “A cell, cell product, or organism that is genetically identical to the unit or individual from which it was asexually derived.” Cloning involves creating a copy of living matter such as a cell or organism. The copies produced through cloning have identical genetic makeup and are known as clones.

Human cloning involves, briefly, the harvesting of a woman's unfertilized egg cell, and removing its nucleus, which contains half the necessary chromosomes for life. Next, the nucleus from a donor's cell is removed (male or female, adult or child) containing a complete chromosome set, and is inserted into the now empty egg cell, which is then implanted into the womb of a host. The chromosomes/DNA are then stimulated to oversee growth of the egg into an embryo, fetus and baby. The DNA simply does what DNA is designed to do by God. It reproduces and brings forth life. Thus the child produced is the exact clone of the donor and not the mother who is carrying her. The child is not related to the woman whose womb was used but to the one whose donor cell was used. The process comes about by what the scientists do with the DNA process by infusing the DNA of one donor into the egg of a mother. In actuality, a mother's genes (life-giving substance) is taken out of her egg and replaced by the genes of another so that she can carry inside her womb another's genes and clone another person inside her own womb that is totally unrelated to her genetically. The child would then be the result of a genetically reprogrammed egg done by the genetic engineering of scientist or doctors. In short, cloning is the transfer of genetic material by unnatural and artificial means.

Take for instance the first cloned animal – Dolly the ewe or female sheep. Scientists took an egg from the black-faced ewe that was to give birth to Dolly and genetically reprogrammed the egg by removing her DNA and replacing it with the DNA of another sheep. Sheep eggs are preprogrammed by God with the ability to develop into sheep, when fertilized. Each egg and sperm has half sets of DNA. When

they come together they have a complete DNA set ($\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1$ whole). So the preprogrammed cell, now with a complete set of DNA, begins to grow. This is the natural process of birth and life. However, what the scientists did was to remove the nucleus of the mother's egg, which was preprogrammed to grow and give birth from the genes of the original father and mother, and replace the original genes with new genes inside the empty egg shell. What really happened was this. A new set of DNA was fused together within the mother's egg shell that now had the potential to bring forth life – the life that comes from the genes of another set of parents.

In other words, when the building blocks of life were removed from the egg of the black-faced, which was supposed to give birth to Dolly, she could no longer bring forth life with her own set of genes. So what the scientist did next was to take a cell from a white-faced sheep's udder and fuse it together to the egg providing a new set of genes. What they did was "borrowed" DNA from another person to clone that person. Since all cells except eggs and sperm carry a complete set of DNA this gave a complete set of DNA to the egg once again. The udder cell was fused to the empty egg using an electric shock. The egg, now finding a nucleus in it with a complete set of DNA, did what it was supposed to do. It grew into a sheep (an identical twin of the white-faced sheep), gestated inside the black-faced sheep's uterus. In reality the black-faced ewe became a "surrogate mother" since her genes were taken out of her own egg and replaced by the genes of another. Therefore, Dolly and the black-faced ewe were totally unrelated genetically. Dolly's genetic father and mother were actually unrelated to the black sheep who gave birth. The black sheep actually gave birth to a clone created from the genes of another sheep. The key difference was the embryo didn't have its own DNA. It had donated DNA from another sheep. Thus Dolly is an exact genetic replica (clone) of the donor sheep.

The Danger of Cloning

The danger of human cloning is this. Man begins to play God with the DNA and genes of other people. He wants to do this in order to arrive at genetically fit people without physical defects and flaws. Man wants to choose what people will be like instead of God choosing and molding people according to His sovereign plan. In essence, man wants

to create his own super race and make the choice about life. We must remember that God is in charge of matching up DNA and making or creating people according to His plan or design. God told Moses in Exodus 4:11, “Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?” It is God who creates the deaf, dumb and the blind for His own sovereign purposes. Man has no right to try and overstep God's boundaries and sovereign choice in creating people with genetic defects. In other words, man does not have the right to try and do something that God alone is said to do which is mold and shape life according to His genetic choice – not mans.

The danger of cloning is that man can create his own 21st century Tower of Babel whereby he attempts to defy God and His plan for life and civilization. Genesis 11:1-9 records the sad story of the building of the tower of Babel. In this early episode of man's rebellion in the new earth after the flood we see how man tries to defy God's plans. Man was told to spread out and repopulate the earth but decided to sidestep God's plan by building His own tower that he can boast about and take matters into His own hands. This project stands out as the first chapter in a story that continues to this day. It includes many similar kinds of undertakings. As technology and ability increase so does man's ability to do things that are ultimately not in his best interest for civilcation and society. Man tries to defy God's work and plan for civilization by creating his own plan and overriding God's plan for procreation. The matter of cloning would not only fall into this category of unwise things but also same sex marriages. All these actions defy God's plan for life and civilization as He has ordained.

In the account of Babel's tower of rebellion and pride we can notice the repeated phrase “let us make” (Gen. 11:3-4). Today man has his own modern day tower of rebellion with his human cloning techniques that defy God's original design and plan for procreation. And man is really saying the same thing – “Let us make.” He wants to rob something from God that God alone has claimed to be His right – to create the kind fo life that He chooses. What happened at Babel should be a reminder to the Dr. Frankensteins of our present day who want to begin playing with the DNA of human life. God brought confusion to the people by confounding their language. This is what

the name Babel means (see Gen. 11:7-9). Whenever man tries to do something without God's approval he either fails miserably or allows God to intervene and create confusion with what he is attempting to do that is outside the parameters of God's plan. Confusion always results when we take God's plans, rework them, and then try to build our own towers of rebellion, our own plans, or set of values that run contrary to God's creative goals. And if man continues create his own tower of rebellion toward God's design God may very well create confusion from man's attempts to clone humans. In fact, there is much confusion that has resulted from the attempt to clone animals. All kind of physical defects have resulted and there is great cause of alarm when man starts playing with the genetic code of human beings. One thing is for sure. Confusion will result of some kind when man takes God's plans for life and tries to rework them. Physical, biological, emotional, and societal confusion can only result when man tries to play God. Sometimes when man defies God He sends man "leanness of soul" for his sinful actions (Psalm 106:15).

Cloning is just not wise. The rebellious earthly people at Babel ought to have asked "Should we?" before asking "Can we?" Are we wise enough to do better than they? The truth is that cloning is an attempt to control and choose who will be born. It is highly doubtful that we have the wisdom, moral sense, or moral fiber necessary to make good choices in that arena. Man lacks the wisdom to develop cloning properly, use it, or understand it. This is because man is not God. Why should we continue down such a path? How wise is it to board a train we don't know where it's going, and traveling on untested tracks? May we use our minds and technology to draw closer to him rather than building monuments to human pride that will only harm and hurt us all in the end.

Satan has always implanted in man's thinking from the beginning that he can be like God and act like God. Genesis 3:4-5, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." Satan has always been programming man to take the place of God. He says to mankind today that he can be like God by becoming a god himself. Humanistic man today thinks he is all wise and can do no wrong. So it's no wonder why he believes that he can clone people and step in the

place of God. If man thinks he is intelligent and wise like God then whatever he seeks to do must be the best for the human race. How utterly blind man is today! The ancient lie of Eden is being surfaced in our society today with the New Age Movement and man's humanistic quest to live and do as he pleases, to take the throne of God and live independently from God and be "as gods" as Satan said. Human cloning is a place we simply should not go. It is another expression of the devil's temptation to be like God. Human cloning is man's attempt to play God and enter a realm that was only intended for God to enter.

Richard Seed, a Chicago scientist, announced he wants to clone a human being before Congress can ban the procedure. "What reprogramming DNA actually means is that we can talk about life extension [conquering the aging process] without being laughable. ... Each person becomes capable of assuming Godlike characteristics and indefinite life and knowledge." This same scientist, Richard Seed, also stated that "Cloning and the reprogramming of DNA is the first serious step in becoming one with God."

In a group Interview with some great thinkers and scientists on Fox news, in the beginning of the year 2,000, here is what one had to say: *"I think there are no boundaries, I think that within a few hundred years we will have the power of a God, we will have the ability to remake the human species in our image animate the inanimate. However the question is will we have the wisdom of Solomon to go with the power of a God."*(The new millennium Fox news, science fiction or science fact Jan. 2, 2000). As Pastors and Christians leaders, we cannot afford to bury our heads in the sand with it comes to speaking out against the cloning of humans. God has the sole right to work with life – not man.

Genesis 1:26-27 records, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." And God said! This is the problem with America today. We don't care what God said! You will notice that it is God who reserves the right to create life. Genesis

1:26-28 cover human propagation from the scriptural viewpoint, but does not say anything specific about molecular biology or DNA. Neither does any other verse of scripture. In fact, there is no specific statement that says ("thou shalt not clone!") but the creative rights of God are recognized over man in this Genesis account. We must go back to Genesis if we are going to move successfully forward in our world today. God reserves the right to create life from start to finish. Man has no right to interfere with what God does. Psalm 100:3, "Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

At this point it would be wise to say that man cannot actually create life when he clones another individual. The actual creation of life will always be in God's hands. I repeat, science or scientists do not create life. Some in the media frenzy that surrounded Dolly went way overboard in their statements and reporting, making it sound almost as if the Roslin team grew Dolly in a petri dish out of modeling clay and pipe cleaners. This is simply not true. They grew a sheep in a sheep just like every other sheep has ever been grown. All they did was transplant some DNA, and then use the exact natural reproductive processes that God set in place at the beginning. It was a revolutionary experiment, but let's not get carried away and give the scientists more credit than they deserve. They rode, in effect, on God's coat tails! It is God who creates DNA and the life process. It is God who has created the built-in-life process that can only come about with His design and making. God starts the reproductive process – not man. Man could never create life. May I say that man is too dumb to start life. It is God who starts the miracle of life through the reproductive process. Man can only play with the DNA that God uses to create life but it's God who always creates life. Let's never forget this. It must be recognized that those who have cloned animals have not succeeded in producing life or "playing God." They have merely taken what God has put in place and with genetic manipulations produce essentially genetically identical animals.

The point is this. God has the full authority over life from the DNA or genetic makeup, to the actual commencement of life, and to the birth of a baby. All is to be in God's hand. God reserves the right to make man in his own image (Gen. 1:26-27). That is why abortion is a stench in the nostrils of God. God is in charge of creating life,

nurturing it along, and bringing a baby to the place of birth. Man has no right to step in and genetically alter people or abort people that God has given life. The God of heaven is furious when man steps in His place and attempts to improve on His life-giving and life-sustaining plan. Psalm 7:11, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry *with the wicked* every day."

Therapeutic cloning (curing diseases through cloning) is gaining widespread acceptance in our world. Embryos are produced by the same procedure as reproductive clones and allowed to live up to 14 days. The goal is to produce *embryonic stem cells* for research in hopes of curing serious injuries and disease. President George W. Bush condemned this unethical action of human stem cell research when saying, "We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it, and that's exactly what's taking place...we recoil at the idea of growing human beings for spare body parts or creating life for our convenience."

The Disaster of Cloning

The disaster that results from cloning is actually the loss of life - abortion. A key objection to human cloning is that it can become outright sinful. It can result in murder. This is true for several reasons. Cloning would result in abortions. Cloning is a complicated procedure that often does not work, so many, many cloned embryos must be made. In the Dolly experiment there were 277 cell fusions, resulting in 29 that began to grow and were implanted, 13 sheep became pregnant, but finally only 1 lamb. As one ethicist said, "It took 277 trials and errors to produce Dolly the sheep, creating a cellular body count that would look like sheer carnage if the cells were human." So the cloning of Dolly the sheep took 277 tries to "get it right." Cloning humans would inevitably cause the intentional destruction of human life. Intentionally killing a human life is wrong by virtually all ethical standards except, of course, with abortion. While toying with (and destroying) sheep embryos is not troubling to anyone (except animal activists) what if this were done with human embryos? This is not an article on abortion, but we must advance the principle here that life begins at conception. Scripture verifies when life begins – not Bill Clinton or abortion doctors.

Psalm 139:13-16, “For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.” David uses personal pronouns for himself (“I” and “my” – vs. 14-16) when he was first conceived and formed in the womb of his mother which is here described as being “curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth” (vs. 15). It was in the darkness of the mother’s womb that David was “made in secret” and “curiously wrought” or woven together by God through a miraculous weaving process (vs. 15). In the womb God brings the DNA process together that begins life and sets the DNA process in motion, which in God’s eyes begins life. It was in the sheltered protection of the womb that God brought David together at the moment of conception. In the DNA genetic code David’s bones, veins, arms, legs, feet, sinews and tendons were intricately designed or woven together in the DNA makeup. Ladies, what goes on inside your womb from conception to birth is a miracle of God!

In verse sixteen David spoke about his “substance yet being unperfect” which no doubt suggests that at conception and the early stages of a babies life and development, that David was already a human person, even before there was any body development (“and in they book all my member were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet, there was none of them”). In other words, even when David was conceived in his mother’s womb as an unformed mass (“substance”). During the initial conception and embryo stage God recognized him as a human being and recorded all the members of his body in a book or registry of life even before they were actually formed. In essence, God skillfully and wonderfully wove together David in the genetic DNA code that He chose and then from this point formed David. God made us and molded us in His genetic code even before we began to develop.

The cells of a living being, whether in the skin, lungs, nose or elsewhere, have a complete set of genetic 'instructions', known as the

genome. From the very first division of the fertilized egg, the nucleus of each cell formed by successive cell divisions stores the *complete* genetic information. At a very early stage of embryonic development, the cells specialize (or differentiate) so that some become nerve cells, some skin cells etc. Each performs different functions, based on different parts of the genetic code. What a marvel and miracle life is when conception occurs.

Dear friend, life begins at conception and God sees a person as a person even before they are formed as a baby. This is what David says. Therefore, to experiment with DNA through the process of cloning is not only trying to play God. Experimenting with a "substance" where life has already begun is experimenting with life. And to discard human life in an attempt to get the right DNA to work together is nothing more than cold-blooded murder. Have we forgotten God's moral code in this country? "Thou shalt not kill" (Ex. 20:13). The process of cloning humans would result in the mass murder of millions of "little David's" whose substance is recorded in God's registry of life. Cloning would turn into nothing more than a diabolical plan of murder. Advocates of cloning claim that it is now easier to pick out defective embryos even before they are implanted into the mother. May God have mercy on us if we move in this direction.

Life begins as conception. Murder takes place when the substance of human life is destroyed. Jeremiah 1:5 records this same truth. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." God says that even before a baby begins to be formed in the womb they are already a person genetically tied together and known by God. They are recorded in His book of life. Therefore, to discard of unwanted cloning attempts is murder of the worst sort. It's taking something that God has created and destroying it. It is not right for scientists to murder hundreds of lives (that is what embryos are) in their scientific experiments! In addition, who wants to be the "guinea pig" (literally guinea human!) for cloning experiments? What person should be brought into the world as nothing more than a scientific experiment that may or may not work? To top it all off, we have no idea where this will lead. The possibilities and problems that

could come from human cloning have not been thoroughly mapped out by any means.

Today millions of unborn people are sucked up, cut up and thrown away through abortion. Cloning would add to the terrible atrocities in this land and world. The issue in debate is human life and dignity. We must reject the artificial cloning of humans. Each fertilized egg, including those from cloning, is a new human individual. Yet perfecting the cloning technique requires many experiments. Many individuals would be enabled to commence life, only to be deliberately destroyed. The research director of a biotechnology firm recently said: "My own view is that the research [on human cloning] is immoral at the present time and should always be immoral. To make the technique more efficient would require a great deal of experimentation. And to get this more refined would be at the expense of having deformed babies, etc. To get it into a situation where you could clone humans efficiently would have such a history of misery associated with it."

The Bible obviously condemns purposely destroying human life (Exodus 20:13, Matthew 19:18, Romans 13:9). But we live in a culture that has widely accepted the lie that the nature of human life and animal life is no different. The evolutionary lie has brought us the where we are today. The Bible clearly identifies human beings as separate from the animal kingdom because we are "made in the image of God" (Genesis 1:27). And this is the point where the lines between right and wrong become blurred. If we do not accept the truthfulness of the Word of God about man being different than the animals then we have no moral standard to condemn things like therapeutic cloning. If we can accept cloning animals like sheep and cattle why is it wrong to clone humans destroying some along the way? This is where evolutionary thought has brought this country.

Cloning is not ethical. If we look carefully we will see that cloning humans is destined to be a disaster, both ethically and morally for this country. Cloning people would turn doctors of medicine into doctors of Frankenstein who could do with life as they please. They could in a sense wash down the drain those specimens that do not suit them. Dear friend, God would look down upon this with absolute fury and we could be sure that this would by another reason for God to judge

America. In Acts 12:20-23 we have the account of Herod accepting the honor that he was a god, and because he did not reject such a pronouncement and give God the glory or credit, he was eaten by worms and died! All of man's decisions should be made in accord with the Word of God. God has given man the power to make laws and decisions but if one ignores the will of God he does so at his own peril. Proverbs 14:15 says, "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going." America needs to look on her ways before embarking in a path that would lead to terrible consequences. Proverbs 22:3, "A prudent *man* foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished." We want to be the kind of people who are actively looking out for evil before we are involved in it so deeply that escaping it is hard and painful. America needs to take this to heart. It is sensible or prudent to think carefully about the path we are walking and where it will lead us. We must count the cost of cloning before moving in a direction that would change the whole moral fiber and structure of God's plan for societal living.

The Detriment of Cloning

The detriment or damage that comes to a society from scientific human cloning is the loss of God's Biblical plan for procreation. Genesis 2:23-24 records, "And Adam said, This *is* now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." God has made men and women in His own image, and He has instituted the covenant of marriage for the propagation of mankind. Genesis 4:1, "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD." In Genesis 1:28 God gave Adam and Eve (not Steve) the command to "Be fruitful and multiply." The processes we have for research and development of cloning, and most of the ways that the cloning would be used once it becomes more successful, do NOT fall within the parameters of How God established reproduction to be accomplished. Cloning humans would be outside of God's plan for the human family. A cloned individual without a mother or father would be produced outside the divine institution of the family where God's sacred blessing is promised.

This is an extremely significant fact with respect to cloning. Cloning usurps God's way of doing things. Cloning has serious implications regarding what constitutes a family. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, children are the result of spousal reproduction, clones are essentially the result of scientific replication. Someone said: "Lines of kinship are blurred and confused when other means of creating life are used. The child begins to resemble a product of our wills rather than the offspring of our passion; and the presence of the child no longer testifies to and embodies the union of her parents." There is a beauty, dignity, and the wisdom of God in the one flesh union between a husband and wife, which in return created a child. The fruit of the marital union is a blessing from God (Psalm 127:3). When man begins to upset God's design for procreation only detrimental effects will occur. Whenever a society attempts to create a new plan in the place of God's original plan or design they create moral and ethical chaos that will send a society into a state of peril and endless moral and ethical confusion. God set up a husband, wife, and children as a family unit. Intercourse between the husband and wife is the method for begetting those children. The alternate methods that people have discovered only throw confusion into society. May God help us if we turn to such an unethical practice of cloning?

Humans are meant to have fathers and mothers, to be where possible the offspring of a sacred marriage relationship, the family ordained by God. While unfortunate circumstances in a fallen world mean that sometimes children have to be raised by only one parent, a clone could *never* have two parents. Thus the artificial cloning of a human being sidesteps God's way to generate life through the union of a man and woman in the family unit. Do some thinking for a moment. Cloning could be used as a way to have a child outside the family unit. God's order for the family is clearly set forth in Ephesians 6:1-4. Children need parents, both a mom and a dad. This is God's way of doing things. To upset God's design is to upset the moral fabric of a society. But who is it that is most thrilled with cloning today? It's the homosexual community. Since they want same sex marriages they could have their cake and eat it to. They could use surrogate mothers to create a child according to their DNA and have children outside the traditional family unit. Technology is trying to find yet another way to have children outside of the God-given pattern and plan. On the front page of a New York Times article a cell

biologist from Washington University in St. Louis said this in connection with cloning: "there'd be no need for men." "A single woman might choose to clone herself rather than involve a man in any way." Are we constructing a technology to circumvent God's moral and natural laws? God forbid that we should design such technology in order to give homosexual couples an opportunity to produce a family, or even to allow the unmarried to reproduce outside of marriage.

Perhaps worst of all, cloning will inevitably result in exploiting children. Matthew 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea." When the experts are pressed to explain what cloning could be used for what do they talk about? How about producing a child as "spare parts" for yourself or for another child that is sick? What if your three-year old has kidney disease, ultimately will have to be on dialysis? No problem. We'll clone that child, so that a new child will be an exact genetic match, then take one of those kidneys in 3-5 years. That would work as well for bone marrow transplants, and many other diseases. Yet we must ask if that is an appropriate reason to bring a child into this world? Yes, "spare parts" children are brought into this world (occasionally) already. Various parts of aborted babies are used on the black market. But if doctors could guarantee a genetic match for these parts this will increase the practice dramatically. When we think about it one wonders how long it would be until someone clones a child for the clone's heart? The child would be born, put on super growth stimulants, never cared for or loved, until he or she was big enough for the heart to be "harvested." What a terrible thought! We will just take what we want and leave the rest to die because we didn't want you anyway. We just needed a part!

Psalm 127:3-5 says, "Lo, children *are* an heritage of the LORD: *and* the fruit of the womb *is his* reward. As arrows *are* in the hand of a mighty man; so *are* children of the youth. Happy *is* the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." Children are a gift from the Lord, not something to be exploited for our benefit or another's benefit! We must get back to the dignity of human life in this country.

Look at the other exploitive uses for cloning. What if your child dies -- you could clone a "replacement" child. But what kind of pressure is that child going to be under to be exactly the same as the one that died, instead of being his or her self? How would that child feel, knowing that he was not loved or wanted for who he is but only because he resembles another child? What about the opportunity to clone athletes, composers, other gifted people? The only way to ensure, however, that athletes would grow up to be another great athlete is to start training them early to create what we want for our children. That is exactly what will happen to cloned children. They will be trained from start to finish to be what they were designed to be -- never given the opportunity to develop into their own person. That is pure exploitation, plain and simple. No child should be subjected to this kind of treatment.

The Disputes Over Cloning

What are some disputes or questions that usually come up with the subject of cloning? One common question is this. "If a person is successfully cloned would they possess a soul or spirit?" The answer is not difficult -- "Yes!" James 2:26 tells us that if you are alive you possess the spiritual part of existence. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." The idea that people can be cloned and walk around without souls is ridiculous. A man could not live without his spiritual existence. God creates life at the moment of conception and gives an immaterial side to every person who comes into the world. Zechariah 12:1 states that it is God that "formeth the spirit of man within him." No cloning scientist can stop God from creating life at the point of conception with the infusion of a person's spirit. Ecclesiastes 12:7, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." It is God who gives the inner life of human beings at life's conception.

Twins occur naturally. Identical twins occur when an embryo splits in half, and both cells begin growing into separate, yet identical genotypic (same genetically) beings. Fraternal twins occur when two eggs unite with two sperm and both siblings grow side by side in the womb. This process is similar to cloning in that two of the same kind are produced. God has never considered twins without a human soul. Several cases of twins are recorded in the Bible, and God recognizes

the twins as people possessing souls, intellect, and free will (Genesis 25: 24-26; 38:27-30; 11:26. 26).

Another question revolves around cloning animals. "Is it ethical to clone animals? Are there legitimate uses for animal cloning?" Perhaps to the surprise of some, I would have to say, "Yes." Animals were given to serve mankind. Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Animals may serve the best interest of mankind if some cloning work is done. For example, if we could clone animals with some fairly high success rate than the best producing dairy cow, or woolliest sheep, could be cloned. In the lab we could make genetic duplicates of a mouse to help speed up drug testing and experimentation which can be valuable for human life. When humans breed wheat that can be cultivated in cold areas, or use artificial selection to get cows yielding more milk, we are also 'manipulating nature'. But of course, few would (or should) oppose such intervention. I think that God's instruction to humans to subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28) also allows for cloning. It is important to realize that this is not necessarily a bad technology. Where the problems develop is when it is applied to humans.

There seems to be no Biblical reason why we should not clone animals. We were given the duty by our Creator to rule over "every living thing that moves on the earth."(Genesis 1:28) God also gave permission for humans to kill animals in Genesis 9:2-3. If humans can benefit from cloning animals then that seems within the realm of dominion over the animals. So the Bible gives clearly different ethical standards for humans and animals.

Others ask "How much alike would a clone be to its 'clonee'?" Scientists agree that a clone would be some like his or her "clonee" but would not be absolutely identical in every way. Look at identical twins -- they are not identical in every way even though their DNA is 100% identical. We need to understand that we are lot more than genes and DNA. A human clone would certainly look exactly like its "clonee" but would not necessarily act the same. Therefore, cloning Adolph Hitler or Saddam Hussein would not necessarily guarantee

another madman. Many fear that cloning humans could produce a race of Adolf Hitlers. This fear is unfounded. Each cloned individual would be genetically the same but would be a different personality and soul. Identical twins, for example, are essentially clones of one another. It takes more than just transferring DNA to make a Hitler. One would have to create the same social environment they grew up in. "As pundits point out, to groom another Adolph Hitler, social engineers would need to subject the clone to artistic failure, expose him to the horrors of trench warfare and have him mature in an environment uncannily like the chaos and decadence of post-World War I Germany." Interested in cloning Einstein? "A thousand track switches have to click in sequence for the child who starts out toward greatness to wind up there. If a single one clicks wrong, the high-speed rush toward a Nobel Prize can dead-end in a makeshift shack in the Montana woods [like it did with the Unabomber --MR]." So even if we made a new Tut he wouldn't be like Tut necessarily. A clone would be his or her own person, living and acting as that individual saw fit to do.

Lastly, does cloning occur in the animal world? The answer is again, "Yes." Cloning is not a human invention. The Creator Himself planned this way of reproduction. When we plant potato stems of the previous year, the potatoes we later harvest are just as nutritious and tasty. This is because there was no new combination of hereditary information, with one plant being pollinated with the DNA of another. They are in fact clones of the previous year's plant. Strawberries are also propagated from runners which are actually clones of the parent plant, bearing fruit with the same color and taste.

We also see cloning in the animal kingdom. Aphids can reproduce both sexually and by cloning. In spring the first aphid generation hatches out of fertilized eggs. Later, the aphid lays eggs that start to divide without being fertilized. They are clones of the mother. Many other animals reproduce by cloning: certain bees, ants, crustaceans, and lizards.

The Declaration on Cloning

The declaration or final statement on cloning is this. The cloning of human life is an abomination to the Lord! It is man acting like God. It will result in man destroying human life. It will create moral and ethical problems in a society and destroy God's design for human propagation and family life. The last bulwark in any society is its families. Scientists need to be told where to stop. In our pursuit of scientific advancement we end up demeaning humanity when we yield to practices that violate God's revealed will, and we turn human life into a commodity to be bought, sold, exchanged, discarded, or manipulated – we cheapen human life.

Human cloning is man's attempt to build his own rebellious tower of Babel that defies God's plan and design for the family. Just because mankind has the ability or technology to do something does not mean he should do it. Morality based on God's revealed will in the Bible is just as valid a boundary for human freedom as anything scientifically understood. Science itself cannot dictate morality. The unchanging moral code for societal living must dictate concerning human reproduction and life (Rom. 2:15). Oh that Americans would once again embrace the legitimate role of the Bible in our society as a moral guide! The Bible is profoundly relevant and applicable to our times and gives us clear light concerning the error of human cloning. Psalm 33:12, "Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD: *and* the people *whom* he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Because of man's rejection of God we have now come to a turning point in human history. In essence, cloning is attempting to reverse the effects of the Genesis Fall and trying to give man a shot at eternal life avoiding death, which was the punishment for the Fall (Gen. 2:17). Man thinks he can reproduce himself and have eternal life. But mankind has forgotten that God has barred him from entrance into the garden and he cannot eat of the tree of life and live forever in his sinful state (Genesis 3:22-24). This is why he needs to receive the gift of eternal spiritual life through Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23). God has offered us eternal life, but we must receive it His way, by personally believing that Jesus died in our own place bearing our own sins and judgment (1 Cor. 15:3; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18). Jesus died in your place and it's through the death of Jesus Christ that you can be rescued

from eternal death or separation from God in hell (Rev. 20:12-15), receive eternal life (John 3:16), acceptance in God's presence forever (Romans 3:28), and go to dwell in the eternal city of Heaven someday (Heb. 12:22-24). Why are you waiting? The gift of eternal life can be yours today. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). Will you silently and prayerfully transfer all of your faith and trust in Jesus Christ to save you today?