

## Human Cloning Discussion

Today, Human cloning is one of the most serious contemporary moral issues. Human cloning is the act of creating an exact replica of an organism through embryonic stem cell research. There are many perspectives and views regarding whether human cloning is morally wrong. Such perspectives include, the belief of human cloning as the destruction of the will of God and inequality amongst people. Whilst, the opposing view regards Human cloning as beneficial to saving lives and giving an opportunity to infertile couples.

Human cloning raises a negative issue because it destroys the will of God. The will of God is known as the plan or control which God has over all of us. In human cloning, the will of God is destroyed because it is not the worthy way in which God wants humans to be brought into the world. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: *"the act which brings a child into existence must be one by which two persons give themselves to one another. (It must not be an act which) entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person...(2377)"*. In reference to this statement, the Catholic Church teaches us that the only way to create humans is through a male and female intercourse. By performing human cloning, God's will is destroyed because humans have been created in a unnatural and manipulative way through scientific means rather than a natural intercourse. Moreover, creating people that rejects the idea of being made in the image of God also destroys God's will. In the Bible, Genesis 1:27 states: *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them"*. This scripture passage teaches us that humans should be created in the perfect, spiritual image of God rather than an image of 'exciting people'. For instance, an image of exciting people refers to the state of humans being cloned as a famous superstar, athlete, professional business person etc. Cloning someone to be someone famous and in higher rank status is morally wrong because it is certainly an unjust act, most importantly, it manipulates God's plan for us.

There are some religious groups in the world that oppose human cloning because it causes inequality. Every human being is entitled human rights including cloned human embryos. If created, they should be treated with the same rights and respect of any other human being as a child of God. This is further explored in a statement from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: *"A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift...In this area the child possesses genuine rights: the right to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of his parents (2378)*. The Catholic Church teaches us that a child should have the right to have parents. Human cloning rejects this idea because genetically produced humans generally have no parents which makes them isolated from the rest. Human cloning is an immoral act because it sub-ordinates cloned humans from having less rights than a normal human being.

On the other hand, human cloning can also have positive effects which is saving lives. Although many people in the world don't realize the positive effects, human cloning can save one's life in cases such as when a person is in need of a kidney transplant and cannot find a suitable donor. Human cloning is useful in this example as it can take one's DNA and create a duplicate organ composed of the same DNA. Through an organ donation of a cloned human, a patient's chances of organ failure will be reduced and consequently save their lives. The benefit of human cloning being able to save lives is relevant in the scripture passage of Genesis 2:21-23 where the Lord caused a man to take one of his ribs and give it to a woman. In this example, Jesus teaches us a moral lesson to do what is right and help one another.

Moreover, Human cloning and embryonic stem cell research gives couples that are unable to have children, the opportunity to raise a child than ever before. Human cloning can be beneficial to infertile couples because it is only way in which they could have children. For example, in 1954, Dr Antinori helped a 63 year old woman to have a baby by implanting a donor's fertilized egg in her uterus, making her the oldest known women in the world to give birth. It is proven that human cloning is useful because it gives happiness to the lives of the people that would never have thought of having a child.

Human cloning is definitely a serious contemporary moral issue which needs to be raised as awareness to society. It is regarded as a moral sin because it rejects the will of God in conceiving humans the natural way, creating people in the image of God and giving humans equal rights. Conversely, Human Cloning can save lives through organ donation and gives infertile couples the opportunity to have a child. Despite the positive

effects, Human cloning is morally wrong because in general, it is all about 'playing God'. Overall, it is up to a person's moral responsibility to decide whether human cloning is morally wrong.