

A Modern-Day Pandora's Box

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The constitutional amendment in Missouri to federally fund embryonic stem cell research in that state, passed by a margin of only 50,000 votes in November 2006. The election not only ended in disappointment for pro life advocates, but also will make a huge impact on our nation.

Just two months after the Missouri law passed, our national Congress in January approved a measure increasing federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. Though that specific legislation is expected to end with a Presidential veto, can it be long before this type of research becomes the norm on a national scale?

You might ask, "Why would that be so devastating?"

Those who voted for the Missouri amendment and the Congressional legislation, those who participate in embryonic stem cell research, and the drug companies who hope to profit from products produced using the research, are going against the laws of God and the laws of common sense.

First, they are playing God in cloning a human embryo. Second, they are, by killing innocent babies, failing to submit to the 7th commandment God laid out for us: "Thou shall not murder." Third, because scientists are making more progress with adult stem cells than with embryonic stem cells, those who condone, promote, or participate in embryonic stem cell research are ignoring common sense.

Just Like God?

The cloning of an embryonic stem cell (the asexual production of a living organism) is wrong because it is playing the part of God by using His raw materials to “create” new life.

The process of cloning consists of taking a human egg cell and joining it with a human embryonic stem cell. The cell is then electronically zapped to force the cell to divide, which creates new life. Scientists are “creating” embryos for the purpose of experimentation.

Despite claims made otherwise, the new Missouriian law, Amendment 2, creates a constitutional right for researchers to engage in human cloning. It clearly authorizes and even promotes human cloning.

Scientists shouldn't be creating life just to destroy it. Psalm 139:13 says, “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.” God is the creator of all life and that's how it should stay.

“Thou Shall Not Murder”

It is now not only legal for a scientist to kill an unborn baby, but also to “create” a human being for the specific purpose of that human's destruction. God commands us in the 7th commandment in the Bible “Thou shall not murder”.

When conception occurs, one cell is formed; that tiny cell holds all of the genetic information needed to form the baby. That one cell divides into many cells, including stem cells. The stem cells then divide into the blood the baby needs to live and the organs the child needs to function correctly.

Therefore, if you take away the stem cells from the baby you are taking away its chance to live. Jeremiah 1:5 says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” We are important to God before we are even conceived, so we are someone special when we are conceived, not something on which others should experiment.

Ignoring the Obvious?

It’s even against common sense to continue the funding of stem cell research because scientists are making more progress in their study of adult stem cells. Adult stem cells are beginning to cure many diseases that were previously believed to be incurable.

The extraction of adult stem cells does no harm to the person from which the cells are extracted. If younger cells are desirable, scientists can do experiments using stem cells extracted from the umbilical cord after a baby is delivered. Also, in recent research, scientists have discovered they can obtain stem cells from the amniotic fluid surrounding a baby in the womb. Dr. Anthony Atala, director of the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C. tells the Los Angeles Times, “So far we have been successful with every cell type we’ve attempted to produce from these (amniotic) stem cells.” Another advantage to the new study is that, unlike embryonic stem cells, the amniotic stem cells did not form tumors in the lab animals on which they were tested.

Adult stem cells have already begun to cure various types of leukemia, breast cancer, sickle cell anemia, multiple sclerosis, and many other illnesses. Embryonic stem cells have shown no evidence in curing *any* disease. The new legislation providing

federal funding in Missouri (and eventually, likely, on a national scale) will push scientists to study embryonic stem cells while slowing research using adult stem cells. So the process not only takes innocent lives, but also negatively impacts patients who might otherwise benefit from accelerating research using adult stem cells.

The Ugly Bottom Line

Why would scientists continue to study a theory that has failed to work in the past while slowing or abandoning the progress they are making with adult stem cells?

The world is a place of jealousy, hate, anger, lying and many other distasteful sins. This world is also full of greed and pride—greed for money and a prideful desire to be known. Scientists cannot patent the stem cell of an adult because the cell belongs to the person from whom it is extracted. However, an embryo does not own the rights to his or her own cells because the embryo is not legally a life; therefore, scientists can patent research on an embryonic stem cell. If scientists own the rights to the cells, they can be credited and paid for their discoveries. The problem is, a Godly view informs us that embryonic stem cells don't belong to the scientists or the companies they work for—they belong to babies, and ultimately to God Himself.

God is the creator of life and he has been doing it wonderfully since the creation of the Earth. Why should we mess with life when even we don't understand it all? The slaughter of an unborn baby, even as an embryo, is just as inhumane as the slaughter of a living, breathing child. Do we, as a nation, want to be responsible for killing millions of people who will never grow to have their own families, or go to the first day of kindergarten, or even take their first breaths?

