



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Human Cloning: A Temptation to Avoid

Morally evil and socially dangerous, human cloning devalues human life by removing a child's God-given uniqueness.

A Statement from The Office of the President
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ST. LOUIS, March 7, 2001—First a sheep, then a pig, then a monkey. Now a human being? In this still-new millennium, our efforts should be directed toward improving, protecting and cherishing human life, not trying to manufacture it in the laboratory.

Cloning human life is troubling for many reasons—most importantly because it is contrary to the Word of God, which teaches that a child is given to a husband and wife as a blessing from Him. Cloning is not merely another “reproductive choice” for infertile couples and others. It is a moral evil and grave social danger. It devalues human life by removing one of the most important things that make us human: our God-given uniqueness.

When a child is cloned, he or she is made not through the loving, personal union of a committed husband and wife. Rather, the clone is made through a process by which one person's genetic materials are injected mechanically into a host egg, thus producing, in effect, a copy of another human being. Because a clone is biologically related to only one person, couples must decide which of them will generate the “better” set of characteristics—looks, intelligence, athletic ability, etc.—to bestow on the clone.

And the clone, of course, will not be “their” child. Rather, genetically speaking, it will be the identical twin of one of them—the person who donated the genetic material used for the cloning. Far from being a new and unique creation like other children, the clone will be that person's “duplicate.”

What sort of identity is this to give to any child? God makes us—each and every one of us—in His own image. It is not His plan that we should create ourselves in our own. Our goal should be to become ever-more fully human, ever-more fully conformed to His image. Not less.

In the Bible (Genesis 1 and 2), God tells us that a child is begotten, not made. The begetting of new human life is best accomplished in the context God intends—in the loving relationship between a husband and wife. It is they, not a laboratory and a dish of donated cells, who are given the joy and blessing of being parents who love and nurture their child.

Clearly, human cloning is a temptation to avoid. Instead of trying to play God or become like Him, we should receive children as a gift from the Lord, who sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.