

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Does God Condone Cloning & Stem Cell Use?

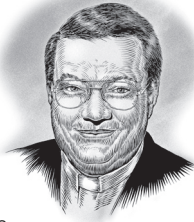
Know This...

Medical and scientific discoveries amaze us. Our knowledge and understanding today of things once unknown far exceed that of ten years ago. While we're amazed, God is not. What we praise as discovery, He fixed in the beginning. This is why the Church is able to teach with certainty whether or not medical and scientific discoveries are ethical and moral. God, through His Church, says human cloning and embryonic stem cell research are always intrinsically evil; but adult stem cell research is good.



John: The cell is the basic building block of all plant and animal life. A stem cell is basically an early "blank" cell capable of becoming a specific cell; such as a skin or muscle cell.

James: Embryonic stem cells are harvested from week-old human embryos. The embryo (innocent life) is destroyed when these stem cells are removed.



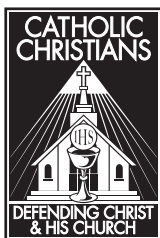
John: Adult stem cells naturally exist in our bodies. They can be harvested safely from a baby's umbilical cord and placenta, as well as from skin, muscle, bone marrow, etc. Research and treatment using adult stem cells never destroys human life.

James: Cloning—artificially conceiving a human being—is always wrong, whether to produce children or for research. One moves procreation to the laboratory; the other produces an identical twin only to harvest his tissues, organs, and cells.

John: Embryonic stem cell research destroys innocent life. It's intrinsically evil. Adult stem cell research can heal and save lives without destroying life.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for a more detailed version of



Jesus said, "The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed." ^{Jn 3:19-20} Jesus said to the Apostles, "Whoever listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the One who sent me." ^{Lk 10:16}

"There are two ways: a way of life and a way of death. There is a great difference between them... In accordance with the precept of the teaching: you shall not kill... You shall not put a child to death

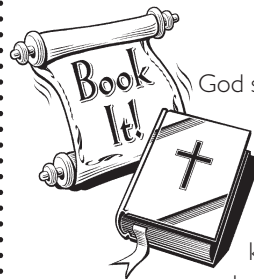


by abortion nor kill it once it is born... The way of death is this: they show no compassion for the poor; they do not suffer with the suffering; they do not acknowledge their Creator; they kill their children and by abortion cause God's creatures to perish... They are filled with every sin. May you be able to stay ever apart, O children, from all these sins."

^{The Didache, 75 A.D.} This early Christian document clearly states that any form of murder of the innocent is morally offensive to God. "Just as God's creature, the sun, is one and the same the world over; so also does the Church's preaching shine everywhere to enlighten all men who want to come to the knowledge of truth." ^{St. Irenaeus} "There is nothing evil save that which perverts the mind and shackles the conscience." ^{St. Ambrose}

PAPA SAYS

"All human life—from the moment of conception and through all subsequent states—is sacred because human life is created in the image and likeness of God." ^{Pope John Paul II} "The Church puts herself always and only at the service of conscience, helping it to avoid being tossed to and fro." ^{Pope John Paul II}



God said, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." ^{Jer 1:5} St. Paul repeats himself in two Epistles. "Detest what is evil, cling to what is good." ^{Rom 12:9} "Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." ^{1 Thess 5:21-22} He then says the Church must be our guide. "You should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth." ^{1 Tim 3:15}

Lord Jesus, You are my strength and guide in doing good and avoiding evil. Through Your Church I can know with certainty Your teaching on new medical and scientific discoveries. The Bible says we cannot do evil that good might follow. I pray that I will always look to Your Church for guidance in doing good and avoiding evil. Grant this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

