Medical Ethics

Intro: How can a book that is around 2000 years old deal with some of the medical questions we face today? When the Bible was completed there was no way for the writes to envision the advances that would take place in the field of medicine, just as there is no way for us to look into the future and see what advances will come.

I. The Bible Answers Our Needs
   A. The Bible answers every moral and religious need and question we might face.
   B. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
      1. God did not only give man what he needed regarding:
         a. Salvation
         b. Worship
         c. The church, et al.
      2. God gave man everything he needed regarding whatever might come along in life.
      3. Thus, God gives us principles to answer these medical questions.

II. Sanctity of Human Life
   A. Man is the creation of God.
      1. He did not evolve from lifeless matter or lower life forms.
      2. Gen. 2:7 “7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
      3. Acts 17:25 “25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;”
      4. Since life is a gift from God, human life should be respected.
   B. The unjust taking of human life is wrong.
      1. When Cain killed Abel; Gen. 4:10-11 “10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. 11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;”
         a. Cain responded, Gen. 4:14 “14 Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.”
         b. So no one would slay him God set a mark upon him; Gen. 4:15 “15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slayeth Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should slay him.”
      2. Murder
         a. Gen. 9:6 “6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.”
         b. Exo. 20:13 “13 Thou shalt not kill [murder— NKJV, NAS, ESV, NET].”
      3. God views human life from the moment of conception:
         a. Psa. 139:13-16 “13 For thou hast possessed my reins [formed my inward parts; NKJV]: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully
made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. 15 My substance [frame; NKJV] was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously [skillfully; NKJV] wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect [unformed; NKJV]; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”

b. Jer. 1:5 "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.”

III. HONOR, DIGNITY, RESPECT OF MAN

A. God created man in His image.
1. Man did not evolve from lower life forms as evolutionist teach.
2. Gen. 1:26-27 “26 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. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”
3. Acts 17:28-29 “For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”
4. In discussing the tongue and its evil; Jam. 3:9 "9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.”

B. Creation
1. God created man and placed him in the Garden.
2. Gen. 1:31 “31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”
3. God was in fellowship with man.
a. It was custom for God and man to enjoy fellowship with each other.
b. Gen. 3:8 “8 And they heard the voice of the L ORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the L ORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”
c. Man had not been spoiled by sin.

C. Sin
1. Man was given the right to choose right from wrong.
a. Satan tempted Eve and she chose to disobey God.
b. Gen. 3:1-6 “1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the L ORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 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. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
c. Sin brought a multitude of evils with it.
d. God pronounced certain consequences to Adam and Eve’s disobedience; Gen. 3:16-19 “16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and
hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the
ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles
shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt
thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art,
and unto dust shalt thou return.”

2. Sin continued to abound:
   a. Gen. 6:6  “6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at
      his heart.”
   b. Gen. 6:3  “3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is
      flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.”
   c. God determined to destroy the world; Gen. 6:7  “7 And the LORD said, I will destroy
      man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing,
      and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.”

3. The flood
   a. God sent a global flood but spared righteous Noah and his family.
   b. The flood destroyed the water vapor canopy above the earth.
      (1) This allowed the harmful effects of the sun to reach earth.
      (2) The water vapor canopy is why the ages of the patriarchs were in the 900-year
          range, yet after the flood only about 70-80 years.
      (3) The harmful effects of the sun brought additional ills, afflictions, and
          sufferings.

D. Improve our health.
   1. 1 Tim. 4:8  “8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having
      promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”
   2. Jesus authorizes going to a doctor to regain one’s health.
      a. Mat. 9:12  “12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a
         physician, but they that are sick.”
      b. Luke did not have to stop being a physician when he became a Christian; Col.
         4:14  “14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.”
   3. Those things that would improve one’s health would be authorized by God.
      a. blood transfusions, medications, surgeries, organ transplants, et al.
      b. It does not mean that we are like an animal to be experimented on.
         (1) God made man as He desired.
         (2) Psa. 139:14  “14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy
             works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”
         (3) To alter or try to change God’s design is to go beyond what is right and
             moral.

IV. SACREDNESS OF THE FAMILY UNIT
   A. God saw the need for the family unit.
      1. Gen. 2:18  “18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him
         an help meet for him.”
      2. God makes the animals pass before Adam; Gen. 2:20  “20 And Adam gave names to all cattle,
         and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help
         meet for him.”
3. God made the woman for man:
   a. Gen. 2:21-22 “21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”
   b. God sanctioned the marriage relationship.

4. God still joins an eligible man and woman in the bonds of holy matrimony; Mat. 19:5-6 “5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

B. The importance of the home:
1. Adage:
   a. “As the home goes, so goes the nation.”
   b. One changed it: “As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the world in which we live.”

2. Wayne Jackson:
   a. Said the “ultimate thrust of the home is spiritual”
   b. Wayne Jackson gave 5 benefits of the family unit, quote:
      (1) “It provides an atmosphere of companionship (Genesis 2:18)
      (2) It is that sphere wherein the sexual appetites of the body can be morally satisfied (1 Corinthians 7:2)
      (3) It stabilizes social relationships and enhances international solidarity
      (4) It is the divinely planned method of introducing children into the world (Genesis 4:1; 1 Timothy 5:14)
      (5) The family unit was planned to provide a warm atmosphere of love and trust—an ideal environment for spiritual growth” (221).

Passages in the quote:
Gen. 2:18 “18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”
1 Cor. 7:2 “2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.”
Gen. 4:1 “1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.”
1 Tim. 5:14 “14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

3. Its importance is seen in marriage is to be for life.
   a. Man is not to put it asunder.
   b. Mark 10:11-12 “11 And he saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”
   c. God does allow one and only one exception to this law; Mat. 19:9 “9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

C. Anything attempting to circumvent the home and family is morally wrong and must be opposed.
V. INTENT
   A. It is vital in numerous areas.
   B. Our legal system recognizes it.
      1. The taking of the life of another, intent is always considered.
      2. One who deliberately takes the life of someone is dealt differently that someone who
         accidently takes another’s life.
   C. Regarding medical ethics:
      1. Some procedures will be deemed moral or immoral based upon the intent of the
         person.
      2. Some items would never be right under any circumstances or intent.
      3. Some medical procedures are not wrong in themselves, but if the intent of the person
         violates the principles noted, then it becomes immoral.

VI. APPLICATION
   A. Sanctity of human life
      1. Abortion is morally wrong.
         a. God views life from conception.
         b. It is the taking of innocent human life and thus murder.
         c. Exceptions?
            (1) Rape and incest
               (a) What wrong did the baby do?
               (b) Adoption is an option.
            (2) To save the life of the mother.
               (a) United States Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop stated publicly that
                   in his thirty-eight years as a pediatric surgeon, he was never aware of a
                   single situation in which a freeborn child’s life had to be taken in order
                   to save the life of the mother.
               (b) There is a difference between life-threatening issues and health issues.
               (c) Two situations where this can be true:
                   (i) Fast spreading uterine cancer.
                   (ii) Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy.
                       a) These are extremely rare.
                       b) With advances in medical technology, they are more and more
                          treatable.
               (d) In these cases:
                  (i) The Doctor is saving one life (one life saved is better than two lost).
                  (ii) It is a matter of self-defense (even though the one attacking the
                       mother is totally innocent). (Some argue this is a case of double
                       effect—bad results can be morally okay if they are only side effects
                       of a good action—instead of self-defense.)
      2. In vitro fertilization:
         a. Process of human eggs are fertilized in a test tube (glass dish) and then transferred
            to the female and babies brought to term.
         b. The intent is to help a couple conceive a baby that has not been able to previously.
c. However numerous additional fertilized eggs are sacrificially destroyed or aborted.
d. Because of the aborted fertilized eggs, this process must be rejected.
e. If they could find a process that avoids the abortive process it still does not mean they should do this.
   (1) God has designed a method for the conception of babies.
   (2) Man must be careful in by-passing God’s design.
3. Euthanasia.
a. Former governor of Colorado, Richard Lamm, said, “Elderly people who are terminally ill have a duty to die and get out of the way” in 1984.
   (1) Many have thought this would alleviate the high cost health care and financial burden placed upon the family.
   (2) Some believe a national health care system will accomplish such (ObamaCare).
      (a) Ration services, medicine, and surgeries to save cost.
      (b) They have a duty to die for the “greater good.”
b. Meaning of the term:
   (1) It combines two Greek words:
      (a) eu meaning good.
      (b) thanatos meaning death.
   (2) Thus it means, “good death.”
c. Three categories:
   (1) Voluntary: when the patient consents to die.
   (2) Non-voluntary: conducted without the consent of the patient.
   (3) Involuntary: conducted against the will of the patient.
d. Two different variations:
   (1) Passive: allows the patient to die by no longer receiving medicine or treatment or to be removed from life support.
   (2) Active: the use of lethal force or substances to kill the patient.
   (3) In active euthanasia, something is done to end the patient’s life; in passive euthanasia, something is not done that would have preserved the patient’s life.
e. Some things that stand out in the mind of the child of God.
   (1) Man does not have the authority to decide to take life.
      (a) Life comes from God.
      (b) God thus determines who and when life may be terminated.
      (c) God has determined that man should take certain lives because of the evil of that person; the exercise of capital punishment by the state.
   (2) God does not give man the right to terminate life:
      (a) To alleviate suffering or pain (the reason often given).
      (b) The taking of one’s own life.
   (3) Who has the right to say that one life is more important than another?
      (a) We are to honor those older; not exterminate them.
      (b) Lev. 19:32 “32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God; I am the LORD.”
(c) Eph. 6:2 “Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

(d) Jesus condemned the teachings of the Pharisees which allowed them to forsake their parents: Mat. 15:4-6 “For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.”

(4) The only good death Biblically.
(a) Those who die as a faithful Christian.
(b) 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”
(c) Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

f. Some principles:
(1) There is nothing wrong with allowing the death process to take place.
(a) Not taking actions to artificially sustain existence.
(b) We are not required to submit to endless medical treatment in a futile effort to sustain it.
(c) This is called passive euthanasia.
(2) It is wrong to actively do something to cause death to happen (called active euthanasia).

B. Honor of man
1. The Lord endorsed the principle of going to a physician and taking medication for the body.
   a. We thus find that inoculations, surgery, artificial organs, and organ transplants are all morally acceptable.
   b. Some have objected to blood transfusions based on the prohibition of not eating blood.
      (1) Gen. 9:4 “But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.”
      (2) Lev. 7:26 “Moreover ye shall eat no manner of blood, whether it be of fowl or of beast, in any of your dwellings.”
      (3) Acts 15:28-29 “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.”
      (4) Blood transfusion is not eating blood and thus there is no prohibition against a transfusion.
   c. Since God demands that we take care of the body, we are remiss if we fail to see the doctor or take the medication necessary for the body.
      (1) 1 Cor. 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
(2) We must be good stewards of what God has given to us; including our bodies; 1 Cor. 4:2 “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

2. Genetics:
   a. In 1953 two British scientists (James Watson and Francis Crick) discovered DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).
   b. Located along the chromosomes of the living cell, DNA is composed of four chemicals that are arranged in an infinite variety of patterns that form the genes.
      (1) Depending on the particular code the development of this material produced a worm, mouse, cow, etc.
      (2) Each human cell contains 46 chromosomes that are tiny packages of DNA.
      (3) The order of arrangement forms the “blueprint” that regulates the production of all living things.
   c. Each one of the billions of cells in the human body contains all of the genetic information for the production of the entire person.

3. Gene mapping; Genome mapping.
   a. Scientists have been able to map the genes and determine, in part, that specific functions.
   b. The Human Genome Project (an international scientific research project) has done an amazing amount of work in this area having been able to map approximately 20,000-25,000 genes from both a physical and functional standpoint.
   c. Mapping might be profitable for plants and animals, yet might present some problems regarding humans.
   d. We must all remember that God has designed man and man must not try to play God.

4. Genetic testing or screening (some like the U.S. Congress Office of Technology Assessment distinguishes between the two):
   a. It can possibly detect hereditary problems before birth.
   b. This can be valuable in treating diseases and problems before they can cause problems.
   c. There is a genetic disease known as phenylketonuria (PKU) which is caused by the lack of a single enzyme.
      (1) If left untreated it results in serious mental retardation.
      (2) By genetic screening an infant can be diagnosed and given a special diet which supplies the enzyme allowing the baby to develop normally.
   d. It can also be used to identify problems in an unborn child to allow the parents to abort the baby (especially if there is a disease for which there is no known cure).

5. Genetic engineering:
   a. Genetic engineering (also called genetic modification) is an attempt to manipulate the code of the hereditary pattern by the introduction of new genetic information into the cells.
      (1) In 1971 researchers introduced a gene from a bacterium into a human cell where it functioned.
      (2) It thus changed the original instructions of that cell.
b. Two types:
   (1) Germline gene therapy that would alter the traits a child is born with and make them inheritable.
   (2) Somatic cell gene therapy that swaps our bad genes for good ones.

c. Possibly beneficial:
   (1) Might eliminate many diseases such as Cystic fibrosis, sickle-cell anemia, dwarfism, cardiomyopathy, diabetes, et al.
   (2) We do not know the dangers involved in trying to accomplish these things.

d. It is easy to go from repairing something that is wrong to attempting to play God and create.
   (1) They go from curing dwarfism to trying to create a race of giants.
   (2) Some scientists are trying to splice genes of different species to create new life forms.
      (a) Human cells have been combined with mouse cells. There is talk of an effort to produce a “hybridization of humans with lower primates.”
      (b) Organisms are to reproduce “after his kind” according to Gen. 1.

6. Mind control:
   a. There is the view that all human thought and behavior is explained only in terms of physical processes.
      (1) It is alleged that there is nothing good or bad, moral or immoral.
         (a) All unacceptable social behavior is the result of genetics or physical disorders.
         (b) Dr. Ralph Gerard said, “There can be no twisted thought without a twisted molecule.” (Psychology Today, Sept., 1975, p. 92).
         (c) Sociobiologist claim that human activity is the result of genetic determinism that forces us to act according to our “evolutionary past.”
      (2) Thus scientists are determined to control man’s thoughts and behavior.
         (a) Dr. Robert Morrison predicted that the time is coming when science “will make possible the control of human behavior with a high degree of precision.”
         (b) Robert Coughlan asserts, “expert scientist owe it to humanity to take charge of events and arrange things so that people behave in ways that will be for their own good” (Life March 15,1963 p. 82).

b. Various ways to accomplish it:
   (1) Genetic bank
      (a) H. J. Muller (a Nobel prize winning geneti-cist) suggested that improvement of human behavior requires, “as a prerequisite the reorientation of human attitudes in regard to reproduction. What is needed is...the provision for...[babies] of the best genetic equipment that is available. This means a replacement of our long-ingrained proprietary attitude that takes it for granted that the children one brings up should carry one’s own genetic material.” (Life March 15,1963, p. 94).
      (b) He argued that superior genetic material should be placed in germ-cell banks and conception would occur by means of controlled implantation.
He would manipulate human behavior by the sifting and elimination process.

(2) Electrical stimulation of the brain (some call it transistorized humans)
   (a) Many years ago scientist developed ESB (Electrical Stimulation of the Brain.)
   (b) Electrodes were implanted into the brains of animals. Through electrical stimulation their behavior could be regulated.
      (i) They were able to control motor activity (the movement of limbs).
      (ii) They were able to isolate the emotional centers of the brain. By this they could provoke rage, fear, craving, etc. Cats could be induced to panic at the sight of a mouse. They could be induced to eat themselves to death or starve.
   (c) Scientist like C. R. Schaffer, suggest that electrical sockets could be implanted in an infant’s head a few months after birth with electrodes reaching into selected areas of the brain. After a year or two a miniature radio receiver and antenna would be plugged into the socket and from that time on the child would be modified or completely controlled by bioelectric signals radiated from state-controlled transmitters.
   (d) The production or inhibition of rage, sleep, motor functions, peace and sexual activity have all been demonstrated through electrical stimulation of the brain

(3) Chemical control
   (a) “The ‘power’ of the brain is due to an electrochemical process. The brain’s ‘electrical’ energy is created by chemical reaction within the cells. It is thus argued that if ESB can accomplish behavior enhancement, chemicals (if the correct kinds and proportions can be determined) ought to be as effective—if not more so.” (Wayne Jackson, Biblical Ethics & Modern Science, Stockton, CA. Courier Publications, 1994, p. 45.)
   (b) Categories
      (i) Euphorians—he becomes witlessly optimistic.
      (ii) Depressants—takes him down to a state of lethargy.
      (iii) Cataplexogenics—prevents him from using his motor skills (conscious but inactive).
      (iv) Disinhibitors—weaken the controls that normally keep behavior on an even level (alcohol is one).
      (v) Chronoleptogenic—disorders one’s sense of time.
      (vi) Confusants—cause a loss of all rationality (everything is strange and bewildering)

(4) Psychosurgery
   (a) The destruction of certain parts of the brain for the purpose of changing one’s state of mind and thus altering behavior.
   (b) This has been used mainly to control violent and uncontrollable behavior among children, epileptics, institutionalized prisoners and mentally ill.
(c) The lobotomy is a form of this.
(d) There has been a move away from this to chemical control.

c. Human conduct should be controlled by moral persuasion and reasoning leading to the person making moral decisions to change to practicing self-control under the will of God.
(1) Any attempt to remove that ability is contrary to the will of God.
(2) Efforts to mechanically or chemically control man, making them in effect robots is a perversion of God’s purpose for man.
(3) If God would not “program” people to carry out His will without their own volition, then man has no right to do so.

7. Man is not to be viewed as an animal to be experimented with (a kind of Dr. Frankenstein-like scientist) to create or redesign the human being
   a. It violates the dignity of man.
   b. It usurps the creative prerogatives of God.

C. Sacredness of the family unit

1. Cloning:
   a. Dolly
      (1) A female sheep
      (2) Born July 5, 1996
      (3) Was the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell (they used the process of nuclear transfer).

   b. Cloning is a process of reproduction apart from the normal mating.

   c. There are 3 different types of cloning:
      (1) Recombinant DNA technology or DNA cloning
      (2) Reproductive cloning
      (3) Therapeutic cloning or embryo cloning

   d. Reproductive cloning:
      (1) Create a genetic duplicate of an individual organism, animal or human, through asexual reproduction, as by stimulating a single cell.
         (a) Some claim that great historic figures could be reproduced by a preservation of their cells.
         (b) If a loved one dies an untimely death, then save some cells and clone him.
      
         (c) Some could arrogantly decide to clone themselves.

      (2) “In October of 1993 at a meeting of the American Fertility Society in Montreal, Jerry Hall, a scientist who is the director of the in vitro fertilization [the combining of sperm and egg in a Petri dish to produce a human conception] laboratory at George Washington University, announced that he and his colleague, Dr. Robert Stillman, had replicated a human embryo. Starting with 17 microscopic embryos that ranged from the two-cell to eight-cell stage (that’s 17 tiny humans), they divided these little being into 48 others. Here is what happened, as described in the Time magazine article (p. 67). 1. As a part of a fertility treatment, eggs were removed from a woman and fertilized in a Petri dish. Some of these eggs were fertilized by more than
one sperm—an abnormal condition. 2. One such abnormal cell divided in two as the first step in development. 3. The coating was removed with an enzyme, and the two cells were separated. 4. Using a novel technique, artificial zona coatings were added, allowing development to proceed. 5. The cells continued to divide, forming genetically identical embryos. Development stopped after six days, partly because the embryo was abnormal. Could this procedure conceivable produce a new human being that would be the exact replica of the parent cell? That is highly unlikely, but at this point we simply do not know, for the parameters of some biological laws have not been fully explored. A human embryo can be frozen, later thawed, implanted in a woman’s body, and subsequently find fruition in the birth of a healthy child. But an adult human cannot be frozen, thawed, and revived to life. There are biological barriers which simply cannot be crossed. So the perfection of the ‘human cloning’ process is far from complete.”


e. It is wrong to practice cloning

(1) Such attempts strike at the heart of God’s design for human reproduction within the family unit.

(2) Producing humans (even in embryonic form) for experimental purposes is wrong (a violation of basic human rights).

(3) The process would involve creating several human embryos and destroying all but the fittest (aborting them) which would violate the sanctity of human life.

2. Blurring the lines of distinction between male and female.

a. Seen in the unisex and homosexual movements.

b. Growing practice of surgically altering one’s sex.

(1) Not discussing one born with a sexual abnormality: i.e., intersex—formerly known as hermaphrodite.

(2) Goes by various names: sex reassignment, gender reassignment, genital reconstruction, sex affirmation, sex realignment, but most commonly simply sex change surgery.

(3) Most who seek this are called transsexual.

(4) This flies in the face of God’s creation.

(a) Psa. 139:14 “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

(b) Those who seek this are saying that God got it all wrong and they need to correct it.

(5) Any attempt to alter the design of the human body for the purpose of an arbitrary gender change is a perversion of God’s design of the distinction of the sexes.

(a) After creating man and woman; Gen. 1:27 “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

(b) God pronounced man and woman, “very good”; Gen. 1:31 “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”
3. Surrogacy.
   a. A fertilized egg will be implanted in a woman’s womb who then carries the child to term or a woman may allow a herself to be artificially inseminated so she can have a child naturally as opposed to adoption.
   b. Two types:
      (1) Traditional surrogacy where it is the child’s genetic mother
      (2) Gestational surrogacy where no genetic relationship occurs
   c. Childbearing was not designed to be an end in itself.
      (1) It is part of a larger and grander plan.
         (a) God’s plan for man is for man to glorify and serve God.
            (i) Ecc. 12:13 “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
            (ii) Isa. 43:7 “Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”
      (2) Parental responsibility begins at conception.
         (a) It does not end until the child is raised to a level of independent maturity
         (b) In some ways never ends.
      (3) A greater part of that rearing is the training the child for God’s service.
         (a) Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
         (b) Eph. 6:1-4 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother: (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
         (c) In that rearing there is the training and restraining of children by their parents.
   d. Surrendering one’s reproductive powers to another person is neglecting and abdicating of the parental responsibility (to an arrangement beyond their own family unit).
      (1) This would be neglecting, abdicating their divine responsibilities.
      (2) Having a child for the purpose of selling or giving it away would be a violation of the family unit God established and contrary to the sacredness of the family unit.
   e. There would be nothing to prevent a single woman from having herself artificially impregnated and avoid the “inconvenience” (as some view it) of marriage.
   f. What about giving up a child for adoption?
      (1) Is this immoral because she is giving up her reproductive responsibility?
      (2) She has the responsibility to care for the baby.
      (3) If she cannot, she may be forced to permit adoption.
      (4) Under such circumstances, she must attempt to place the child in a Christian home.

Conclusion: In the Charles Dickens novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, Dickens begins by saying: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” In many respects this is true of today in regards to
medical advances. We can do things today that were not even dreamed of in times past. However, with the advances in technology come moral issues that were never faced in prior times. The only way to determine what is ethical in any situation is to have our feet firmly planted on the Word of God. It has everything we need to know pertaining to making moral decisions. If we keep those principles of (1) the sanctity of human life, (2) the honor of man, and (3) the sacredness of the family unit in mind, then whatever medical issues might arise in the future, we will be able to determine what is right and what is wrong.