

MEDICAL ETHICS

BOOKS FROM AFTER JESUS' LIFE, THE NEW TESTAMENT: NT

BOOKS FROM BEFORE JESUS' LIFE, THE OLD TESTAMENT: OT

ABORTION

On the one hand, some Christians are against abortion. They think this for many reasons:

They think it should be up to God to decide questions of life and death: *'The LORD brings death and makes alive'* (1 Samuel 2:6, OT).

Also, some think that God already has plans for people before they are born: *'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart'* (Jeremiah 1:5, OT)

Christians think human life is important, it is made in *God's image* (Genesis 1:26, OT).

Roman Catholics believe that full human life starts at conception (when the egg and sperm come together). They therefore see abortion as murder. The sixth commandment from God was *'you shall not murder'* (Exodus 20:13, OT).

On the other hand, some Christians think that in some extreme cases, abortion may be the most loving option. Jesus said, *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31, NT). (Remember some Christians might use this quote in arguing for the other side!)

EUTHANASIA AND SUICIDE

On the one hand, some Christians are against euthanasia. They think this because:

It should be up to God to decide questions of life and death: *'the LORD brings death and makes alive'* (1 Samuel 2:6, OT).

Christians think human life is important, it is made in *God's image* (Genesis 1:26, OT).

The sixth commandment from God was *'you shall not murder'* (Exodus 20:13, OT).

On the other hand, a very few Christians think that in some extreme cases, euthanasia may be the most loving option. Jesus said, *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31, NT). (Remember some Christians might use this quote in arguing for the other side!)

An example of suicide in the Bible is when Judas - who betrayed Jesus to the authorities who crucified him - feels very guilty and kills himself. (Matthew 27:5)

FERTILITY TREATMENT

On the one hand, some Christians are against Fertility Treatment because they think it should be up to God to decide questions of life and death: *'the LORD brings death and makes alive'* (1 Samuel 2:6, OT). This suggests God should decide whether someone gets pregnant.

'Hannah had no children... because the lord had closed her womb' (1 Samuel 1:2, 6, OT) This quote also suggests that God decides who will be able to get pregnant or not.

On the other hand, when God created people his first command was *'be fruitful and increase in number'* (Genesis 9:7, OT) which suggests God wants people to have children.

Jesus said, *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31, NT) and some Christians think that helping people have children who really want them is the most loving thing to do.

Different Christians also have different views on particular fertility treatments. For example, Roman Catholics believe full life starts at conception, so the eventual throwing-away of embryos in In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) concerns them. The sixth commandment from God was *'You shall not murder'* (Exodus 20:13, OT). Some Christians might view egg and sperm donation as similar to cheating on your husband or wife. God's 7th commandment was *'you shall not commit adultery'* (Exodus 20:14, OT)

ANIMAL RESEARCH

On the one hand, some Christians say that when God made people he said: *'let us make man in our image, in our likeness.'* (Genesis 1:26, OT) Many Christians see this as saying that people are the most important part of creation as they are most like God.

Jesus said *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31, NT) and this might mean helping to develop new treatments for human illnesses using animal research.

In the Bible it says God wanted people to *'rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'* (Genesis 1:26, OT) Some Christians will see this as justifying animal testing.

There are stories which involve Jesus killing fish, for example in the *feeding of the 5000* (Mark 6:30-44, NT). Also, the Bible says that *Jesus put some demons from a man into 2000 pigs and they ran off a cliff and died* (Mark 5:1-18). So, clearly, Jesus thought the man's life was more important than the pigs'.

On the other hand, most Christians see the idea of *'ruling over'* as involving care for animals. Most Christians oppose the use of animals in research for cosmetics and anything that does not really help people. Jesus said, *'love your neighbour as yourself'* (Mark 12:31, NT) and *'blessed are the meek'* (Matthew 5:5, NT). Some Christians might think that animals should be considered neighbours.

On another hand (!?), a small number of Christians use the following Bible quote to argue that people and animals are equal and that both have souls: *'And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.'* (Genesis 1:30, OT). These would be against animal testing.