

EMBRYO ADOPTION

Reproductive Technology,
In-Vitro Fertilization, and
Whether Christians Should
Adopt Embryos



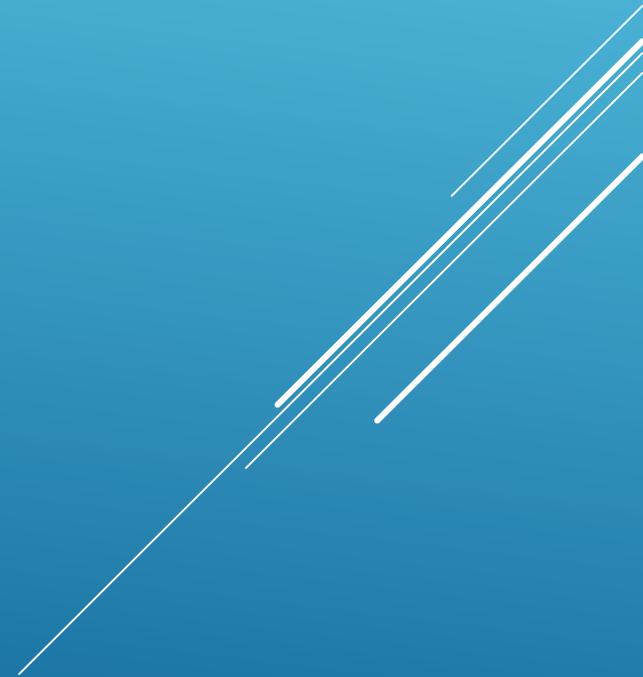
- ▶ 1. Define Terms
- ▶ 2. Statistics/History
- ▶ 3. Public Policy
- ▶ 4. Most importantly – Search the Scriptures
- ▶ 5. Christian Ethics
- ▶ 6. Pastoral Care and Practice
- ▶ 7. Questions, Comments, Concerns, Discussion

WHY?



- ▶ “Reproductive Technology encompasses all current and anticipated uses of technology in human and animal reproduction, including assisted reproductive technology, contraception and others.”

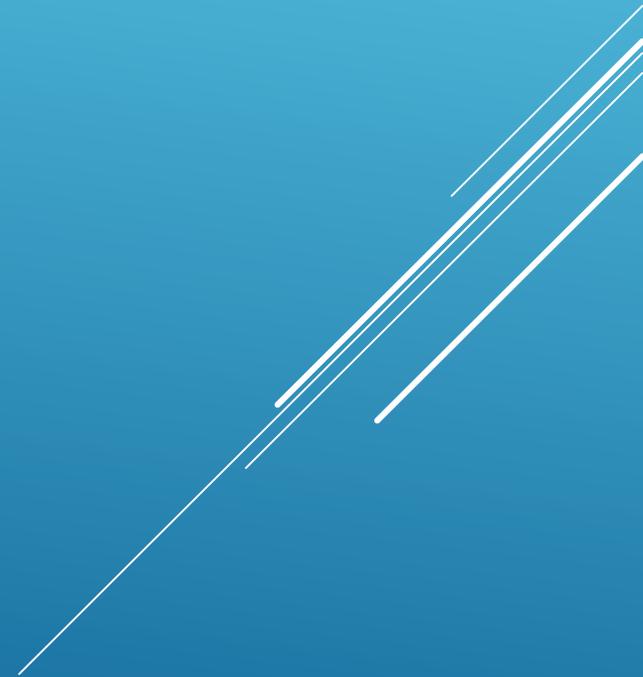
TERMS: REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY





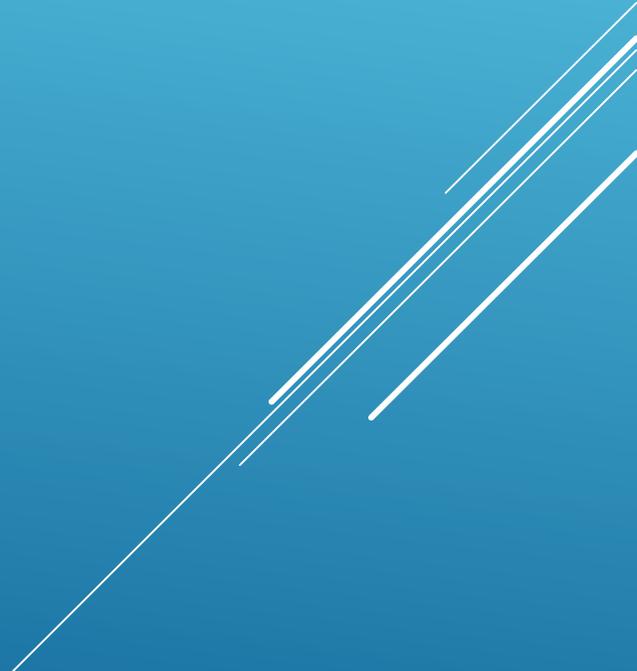
- ▶ Assisted Reproductive Technology treats infertility and includes:
- ▶ Artificial insemination
- ▶ Cloning
- ▶ Cytoplasmic Transfer
- ▶ Cryopreservation of sperm, oocytes, embryos
- ▶ Embryo transfer
- ▶ Fertility medication
- ▶ Hormone treatment
- ▶ In Vitro Fertilization
- ▶ In Vitro generated gametes
- ▶ Preimplantation genetic diagnosis

TERMS: ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY



- ▶ “Future chances of pregnancy, facilitating an informed choice of family planning”
- ▶ Mapping a woman’s ovarian reserve, follicular dynamics, and associated biomarkers
- ▶ Semen analysis

TERMS: PROGNOSTICS

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- ▶ “ A form of reproductive technology that enables people to control their fertility”

TERMS: CONTRACEPTION



- ▶ Artificial wombs: “at the developmental stage”
- ▶ Germinal choice technology = genetic screening of blastocysts (early embryos), or germline engineering (human genetic engineering used to alter genes in the first cells of the blastocyst)
- ▶ In Vitro Parthenogenesis = sperm triggers the development of the egg cell into an embryo but makes no genetic contribution to the embryo
- ▶ Reprogenetics = “the use of reproductive and genetic technologies to select and genetically modify embryos with germinal choice technology for the purpose of human enhancement”
- ▶ Same-sex procreation = female sperm (contains an X chromosome) or male eggs (female eggs emptied of genetic contents and replaced with male DNA), where two men or two women can have a child with equal genetic contributions from both men or both women

TERMS: OTHER ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- ▶ Egg cell = female reproductive cell (gamete) = Ovum = oocyte (immature ovum or egg cell)
- ▶ Visible to the naked eye, about 0.12mm in diameter
- ▶ Known as "ova" in animals
- ▶ Ovary (Latin: "egg" or "nut") = ovum-producing female reproductive organ
- ▶ Usually, ovulation occurs in one of two ovaries, releasing a fertilizable egg each menstrual cycle
- ▶ Ovarian Follicle = secretes hormones that release an egg cell at ovulation for fertilization

TERMS: EGG, OVUM, OOCYTE; OVARY,
OVULATION, OVARIAN FOLLICLE

- ▶ Testes = sperm-producing male reproductive organ
- ▶ Sperm ("seed") = male reproductive cell (gamete)
- ▶ Spermatozoa ("seed" + "living being") = 60 day fully mature
- ▶ Semen = fluid that may contain spermatozoa
- ▶ Semen Quality = measure of the ability of semen to accomplish fertilization; male fertility – sperm count (usually 300-500 million spermatozoa of typical healthy, physically mature young adult male of reproductive age)
- ▶ Insemination = "deliberate introduction of sperm into a female for the purpose of impregnating or fertilizing the female for sexual reproduction"

TERMS: TESTES, SPERM, SEMEN,
INSEMINATION

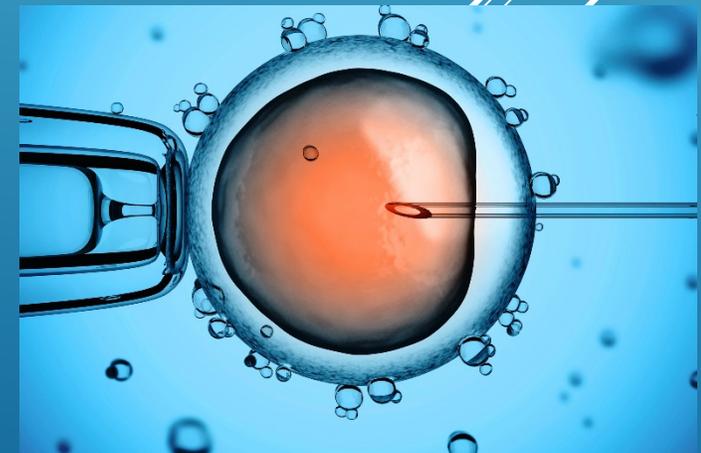


- ▶ Fertilization = (also known as **conception**) is the fusion of gametes to initiate the development of a new individual organism
- ▶ Zygote (“to join, to yoke”) = fertilized cell of 2 gametes (1 egg, 1 sperm)
- ▶ Embryo (“young one;” “growing in”) = 1 (or 3) week old, multi-cellular, from zygote stage to 8 weeks (56 days)
- ▶ Blastocyst (“put forth shoots;” “capsule”) = from 5 days after fertilization, until 11 or 12 when implanted in uterine wall
- ▶ Fetus (Lat. “offspring”) = is a prenatal human (!) between its embryonic state and its birth; 11 weeks gestation, 9 weeks after fertilization

TERMS: FERTILIZATION, ZYGOTE,
EMBRYO, BLASTOCYST, FETUS

- ▶ In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) = placing one egg in a small round glass dish and smothering it with sperm cells until one penetrates and fertilizes the egg to produce the zygote; may take up to 30hrs
- ▶ Direct Egg Sperm Injection (DESI) = sperm and eggs are collected same way as IVF; here one egg is directly injected with one sperm cell; if it works, fertilization occurs within several hours
- ▶ 1. Ovarian stimulation (superovulatory drugs such as Lupron or Clomiphene Citrate)
- ▶ 2. Six to Twenty-two oocytes are recovered, cleaned, and readied for IVF or for DESI
- ▶ 3. Sperm of the husband is recovered via masturbation or aspiration of gonad tissues; sperm are cleaned and counted. Those that are the most mobile and in "good shape" are cleaned and kept for fertilization
- ▶ 4. Embryos graded for the suitability for implantation & freezing

TERMS: IN VITRO FERTILIZATION,
DIRECT EGG SPERM INJECTION



- ▶ Cryopreservation = preserved by cooling to sub-zero temperatures, freezing in liquid nitrogen to -321.0 F; developed in late 1970s
- ▶ Longest reported successful storage with semen cryopreservation is 21 years
- ▶ 7%-57% of thawed human embryos die in the rapid thawing process
- ▶ Cryopreservation is supposed to reduce the risk of major multiple pregnancies, increase the number of embryo transfers, and, hence, pregnancies per stimulation and retrieval cycle, avoid Ovarian HyperStimulation Syndrome, preserve future child-bearing capability in women facing ovarian surgery or cancer therapy, and reduce patient expense and risk from additional stimulation and retrieval cycles

TERMS: CRYOPRESERVATION



- ▶ Surrogacy = arrangement or agreement to carry a pregnancy for intended parents
- ▶ Gestational Surrogacy = Embryo transfer created through IVF, so that the child is genetically unrelated to the surrogate
- ▶ Traditional Surrogacy = Surrogate is impregnated naturally or artificially, but the resulting child is genetically related to the surrogate
- ▶ OR, is surrogacy any “substitute?”

TERMS: SURROGACY

- ▶ “Embryo donation is a process by which couples who have cryogenically preserved embryos relinquish any and all legal rights to those embryos and give them to another couple with no genetic ties to the embryos.”

TERMS:
EMBRYO ADOPTION





- ▶ July 25 1978 – 1st “test tube” (actually petri dish) baby, Louise Brown, born in Oldham, England, 5lbs., 12oz.
- ▶ 1983 – 1st pregnancy from a cryopreserved 8-cell embryo (terminated at 24 weeks)
- ▶ 1986 – 1st live birth in the United States from an in vitro fertilized oocyte subsequently cryopreserved, stored, thawed, and then transferred to the uterus of the genetic oocyte donor
- ▶ 1990 – United Kingdom Parliament rules that gametes or embryos shall not be stored for more than 10 or 5 years, respectively
- ▶ 1996 – Up to 6,000 British embryos destroyed (murdered) because parents no longer wanted them or parents couldn't be found
- ▶ In response the Vatican published response asking married women to bring abandoned embryos to term: “prenatal adoption”

STATISTICS/HISTORY

- ▶ 1997: Nightlight Christian Adoptions (founded 1959) created first program in U.S. to arrange for couples to adopt frozen embryos (Snowflake program); 426 Snowflake children born to date
- ▶ 1998: first embryo adoption, Hannah, born to Marlene and John Strege
- ▶ 2002: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funded a Embryo Adoption Awareness Campaign beginning. A total of about 1,900 babies were born between 2004 and 2009 as a result of the program
- ▶ From 2011 to 2012, the number of embryo adoptions rose 25% in the U.S.
- ▶ As of January 2013 more than 4500 babies have been born in the U.S. through embryo adoption. The program had a \$1.9 million budget.

STATISTICS/HISTORY



- ▶ How much does it cost to undergo one round of in-vitro fertilization? Around \$67,000
- ▶ How much does it cost to store frozen embryos? \$350-500/year
- ▶ How many homeless frozen children in the U.S.? 600,000
- ▶ What federal regulations are there regarding embryo donation or adoption? None
- ▶ What is the infertility rate in the U.S.? 10%, or 6.5-10 million
- ▶ About 12% of women of childbearing age have used fertility services in the U.S.

STATISTICS/HISTORY



- ▶ Medical Opinions regarding Embryo Donation
- ▶ American Medical Association: “Gamete providers should be able to use the pre-embryos themselves or donate them for use by other parties, but not sell them.” [“Pre-embryo is an ill-defined term...and was introduced in 1986 largely for public policy reasons.”]
- ▶ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: “Each IVF program should develop policies regarding the options of transfer, storage, donation, research, and discard...[an infertile couple’s] choice should be made in circumstances due to financial or other coercion.”
- ▶ American Society of Reproductive Medicine:

STATISTICS/HISTORY

- ▶ 3 types of court cases so far:
 1. Divorce without a prior cryopreservation contract
- ▶ Davis v. Davis (1992) – Mr. Davis is opposed to donating frozen embryos to a childless couple and wants them destroyed. Mrs. Davis wants to donate. The Supreme Court of Tennessee concluded that Mrs. Davis' interest in donation was not as significant as the interest Mr. Davis had in avoiding parenthood.
- ▶ “We conclude that pre-embryos are not, strictly speaking, either ‘persons’ or ‘property,’ but occupy an interim category that entitles them to special respect because of their potential for human life. It follows that any interest that Mary Sue Davis and Junior Davis have in the pre-embryos in this case is not a true property interest. However, they do have an interest in the nature of ownership, to the extent that they have decision-making authority concerning disposition of the pre-embryos, within the scope of policy set by law.”

STATISTICS/HISTORY



- ▶ 2nd type of court case so far:
Divorce with prior cryopreservation contract
- ▶ Kass v. Kass (1998) – This case involved a cryopreservation informed consent form that stated that if both parties could not agree on the disposition of the frozen zygotes, the court would make their decision based on all court documents, including this informed consent form. The 5 frozen pre-zygotes were turned over to the IVF program of the John T. Mather Memorial Hospital for destruction and research.
- ▶ “We now affirm, agreeing with the plurality that the parties clearly expressed their intent that in the circumstances presented, the pre-zygotes would be donated to the IVF program for research purposes.”
- ▶ Pre-zygote is defined as “eggs which have been penetrated by sperm but have not yet joined genetic material.”

STATISTICS/HISTORY

- ▶ 2nd type of court case so far:
Divorce with prior cryopreservation contract
- ▶ A.Z. v. B.Z. (2000) – Any decision regarding the disposition of the frozen pre-embryos would be based on divorce of the couple, death of either or both spouses, wife or donor reaching normal menopause or age 45 years, or pre-embryos no longer being healthy. The husband always signed a blank consent form. The wife specified an additional alternative not listed on the form: that the pre-embryos were to be returned to her for implantation “should we become separated.”
- ▶ The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled that the consent form signed by both parties in 1991 was not enforceable. The court said that the husband is not bound to the informed consent form because they are no longer husband and wife...he cannot be forced into a family relationship that no longer exists.
- ▶ 3rd type of court case so far:
Couples who seek financial compensation for fertility clinics that “mistakenly” destroy their frozen embryos

STATISTICS/HISTORY



- ▶ Yet more terminology: the courts have used “embryo,” “pre-embryo,” and “pre-zygote” interchangeably to refer to the same developmental stage of the embryo, the 4-7 day old blastocyst. *Pre-embryo* and *pre-zygote* are ill-defined, arbitrary, non-scientific terms, a “political and scientific construct” created for the sole purpose of justifying research and freezing and to circumvent the bioethical dilemmas regarding the moral status of the human embryo.
- ▶ The courts don't view the pre-embryo, embryo, or pre-zygote to be a human being, based on *Roe v. Wade* (1973), and they appear to find direction in going with the strong fertility lobby (American Society for Reproductive Medicine).
- ▶ In every case the courts gave a brief review on the “moral status” of the human embryo to justify their claim that it is neither person nor property, but deserves “special respect” – which is arbitrary and provides an emotional excuse for couples wishing to destroy their embryos. It's a phrase of relativism and vagueness. It is part of the ongoing deconstruction by a liberal, postmodern society.

PUBLIC POLICY



- ▶ Are embryos persons?
- ▶ Are embryos property?
- ▶ Do embryos deserve “special respect”?
- ▶ None of the above – should courts base decisions on contract principles?
- ▶ “Property” = “decisional authority” regarding legal available options with early human embryos such as creation, storage, discarding, donation use in research, and placement in a uterus, whether wife or surrogate
- ▶ Embryos implanted in the uterus are akin to the “property” of the pregnant woman, while embryos within a petri dish are not...

PUBLIC POLICY



- ▶ The Roe v. Wade decision was based primarily on a woman's right to privacy in concert with the state's interests, such as protecting potential life. Does the right to privacy encompass a woman's right to decide the fate of her frozen human embryos?
- ▶ In general, papers that address this issue conclude that since frozen human embryos reside outside of the woman's body and not in her uterus, the right to control the integrity of her body, as given in Roe v. Wade, is invalid.
- ▶ Finally, there is the possibility of "psychological harm" that could befall the mother if her embryos are donated or adopted by another couple. And if a parent has a right to decide against implantation, the parent should also have the right to decide that the embryo should be destroyed.

PUBLIC POLICY

- ▶ The truth and meaning of our humanity is seen in the incarnation of God in the flesh of Jesus Christ, His Son, and our Lord and Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil.
- ▶ “Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man...”
- ▶ Genesis 3:15
- ▶ John 1:14
- ▶ Philipians 2:5-8
- ▶ Hebrews 2:14-18

“YOU SEARCH THE
SCRIPTURES BECAUSE YOU
THINK THAT IN THEM YOU
HAVE ETERNAL LIFE”

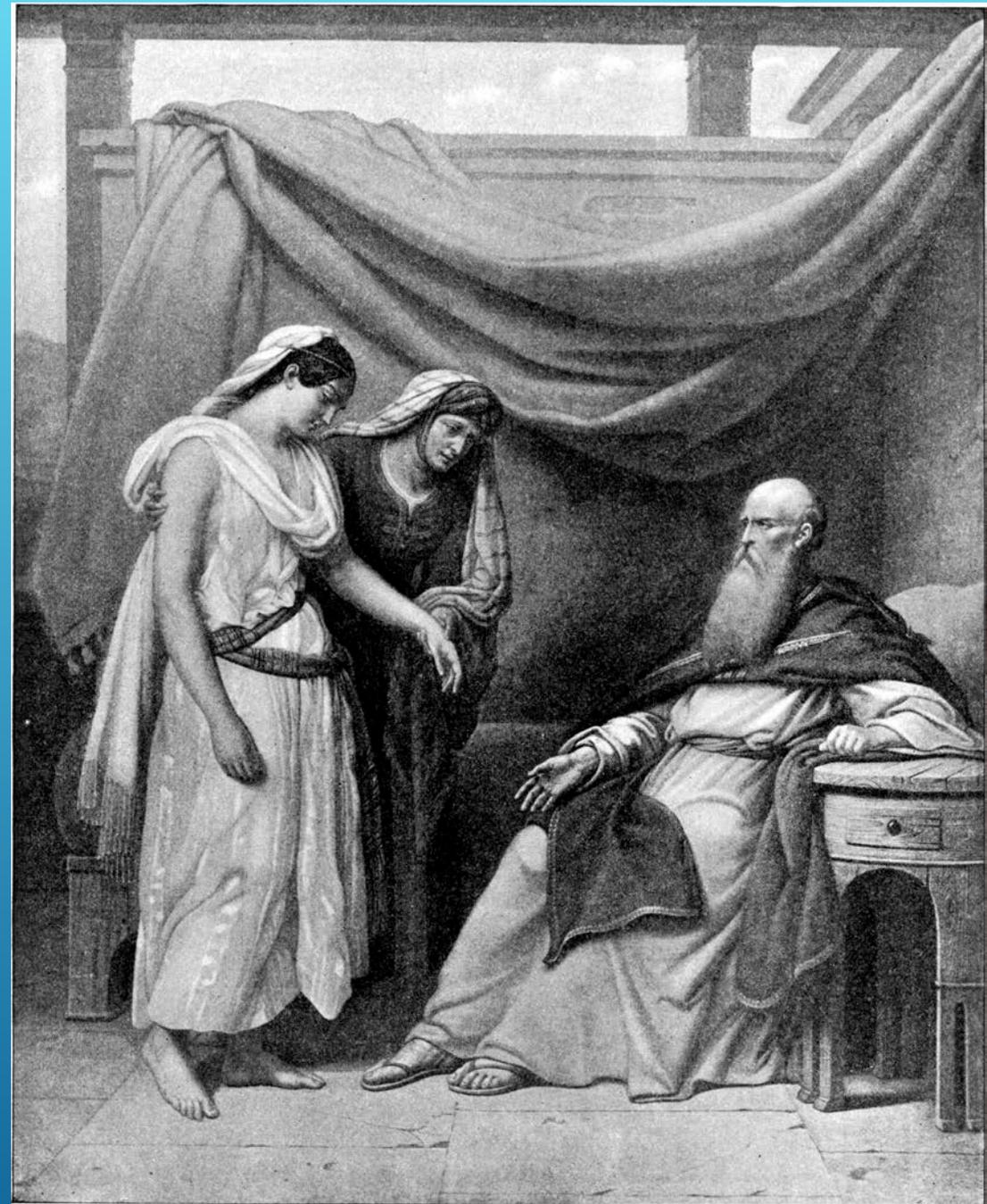


- ▶ If we say that we are not a human being until the 14th day (pre-embryo language) or thereafter, we deny the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- ▶ Psalm 51:5
- ▶ Psalm 139:16
- ▶ Jeremiah 1:5
- ▶ Only a human being is conceived in sin, not a “potential human.”
- ▶ The fertilized oocyte is a corrupted body and soul. It is sinful and unclean.

“LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU
HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE”

- ▶ “Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.” Genesis 11:30
- ▶ “Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” Genesis 16:2

BARRENNESS, INFERTILITY



- ▶ “And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.” – Genesis 25:21
- ▶ “When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren...when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister. She said to Jacob, ‘Give me children, or I shall die!’” Genesis 29:31, 30:1
- ▶ “‘Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?’” 30:2

BARRENNESS, INFERTILITY



- ▶ Manoah's "wife was barren and had no children. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, 'Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.'" Judges 13:2-3

BARRENNESS, INFERTILITY



- ▶ “Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children...the LORD had closed her womb.” 1 Samuel 1:2, 5

BARRENNESS, INFERTILITY



- ▶ “But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years...But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.’” Luke 1:7, 13

BARRENNESS, INFERTILITY



- ▶ Parental responsibility begins from the moment parents learn of their pregnancy. Raising a child in the instruction and discipline of the Lord begins in the womb.
- ▶ Freezing a human embryo denies God as the Author and Creator of human creatures. It violates the Lord's command to parents to raise their children in His instruction and discipline. It places a child's life on a course with the Russian roulette of rapid thawing: Will it live or die?
- ▶ Our bodies are temples of God's Spirit. We are called to take care of the body that God has given us. The human embryo is a symbiotic part of the body, who will remain in the womb for 37-42 weeks, and if it is God's will, be born, be baptized, hear God's Word, worship, pray, study the Bible, and receive the Lord's Supper.

“FATHERS, BRING YOUR CHILDREN UP IN THE DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD”



- ▶ 1. return to the mother's womb
- ▶ 2. remain frozen until they succumb to death from prolonged freezing while they lie in liquid nitrogen
- ▶ 3. allowed to thaw and be left in the hands of God's grace under the direction of one or both parents
- ▶ 4. destruction under the direction of a fertility clinic due to parental or legal notification
- ▶ 5. destruction via experimental stem cell research
- ▶ 6. placement into a family via embryo adoption through the Snowflake Embryo Adoption Agency

CHRISTIAN ETHICS: EMBRYO ADOPTION



- ▶ 1. return frozen embryos to the mother's womb:
- ▶ Why do some pro-lifers who detest the 1.4 million elective abortions every year remain silent regarding reproductive technologies that result in embryo death due to the processes of IVF and DESI which include the freezing and thawing of embryos?
- ▶ Does the embryo have the same moral rights as any human regardless of developmental stage?

CHRISTIAN ETHICS

- ▶ 2. keep the embryos frozen:
- ▶ Adult human beings are not intentionally frozen in liquid nitrogen. Why, then, would we freeze, or leave frozen, embryonic human beings?



CHRISTIAN ETHICS

- ▶ 3. allow frozen embryos to thaw:
- ▶ “Let them thaw and die; leave them in the hand of God’s grace.”
- ▶ They would be removed from their liquid nitrogen Dewar and allowed to thaw and die. For those who are abandoned and unclaimed by their biological parents, they would be buried with the homeless in that section of the cemetery.
- ▶ Allowing someone to die occurs only when the person is dying.
- ▶ Frozen human embryos are not dying. They are in a state of “suspended animation.” Since they are neither dying nor dead, how can anyone allow them to die in the thawing process? They already reside within the grace of God.

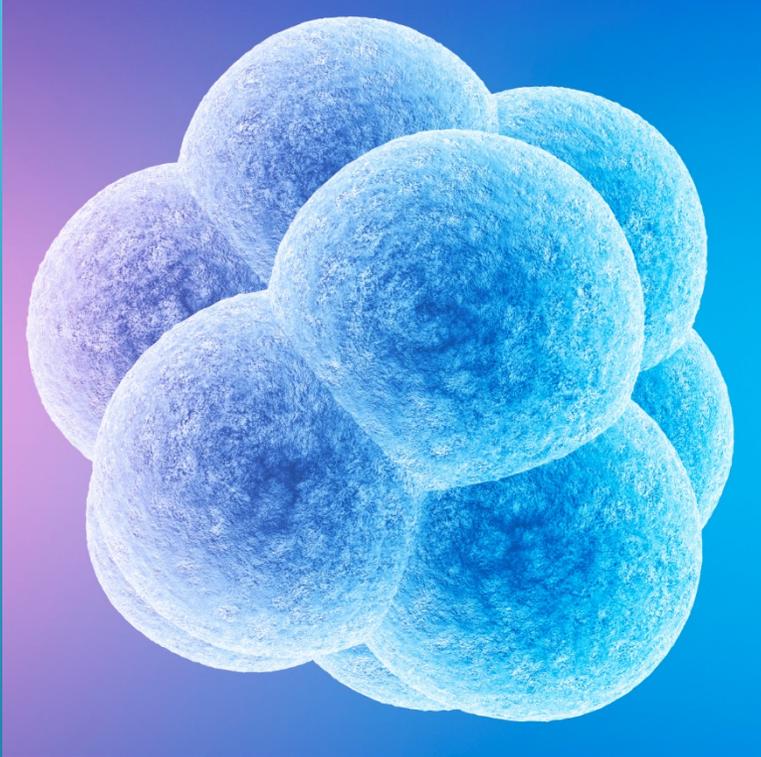
CHRISTIAN ETHICS



- ▶ 4. destruction under the direction of fertility clinic due to parental or legal notification, or
- ▶ 5. destruction via embryonic stem cell research
- ▶ Embryos are not adult skin cells. They are human beings that are being destroyed under the hype of “cure” and “treatment” of genetic diseases – yet to be established.
- ▶ Hippocratic Oath, 400 B.C.: “Do not harm...but also to keep away injury of health and injustice.”
- ▶ Exodus 20:13 – “You shall not murder.”
- ▶ Romans 13:8-10; 1 John 3:17-18, 4:20

CHRISTIAN ETHICS





“AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”



- ▶ 6. Embryo Adoption:
- ▶ “Embryo donation is the more correct legal phrase. Based on current laws, adoption only refers to the placement of a child with a family following the child’s birth.”
- ▶ Nightlight Christian/Snowflakes Adoption
- ▶ National Embryo Donation Center, since 1990
www.embryodonation.org
- ▶ www.embryoadoption.org
- ▶ Success rate to birth (39%), cost, liability, counseling, genetic testing of embryos, donating family, etc.

EMBRYO ADOPTION





- ▶ Cheaper than IVF or DESI: \$7000-\$10000 per implantation v. \$67000 per implantation (IVF)
- ▶ Open adoption or closed adoption
- ▶ Permitted in all 50 states
- ▶ Provides an adoption opportunity for the estimated 6.5-10 million infertile couples
- ▶ Involves a thorough screening process designed to ensure that all embryos are placed with stable families meeting the expectations of genetic parents

EMBRYO ADOPTION





Agency Fee* *Additional travel expenses may be incurred for centralized programs.	\$2,500-\$10,000	May or may not include legal fees, embryo shipping, matching services, counseling, additional medical screening
Home Study/FamilyAssessment	\$1,000-\$2,500	Costs vary by state
Clinic Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET)	\$2,500-\$5,000	Costs vary by clinic
TOTAL	\$6,000-\$17,500	Generally less expensive than domestic or international adoption

- ▶ Selection and matching of adoptive parents with genetic parents:
- ▶ Religion
- ▶ Work
- ▶ Length of marriage
- ▶ Financial status
- ▶ Educational status
- ▶ Number of children in family
- ▶ Prior marriage
- ▶ Ethnic background
- ▶ Ages of adoptive parents
- ▶ Mother must be able to “carry” the embryos

EMBRYO ADOPTION

- ▶ Meet Hannah Strege, born December 31, 1998 at 7:07am
- ▶ Adopted with 20 siblings, shipped by FedEx to a fertility clinic in Pasadena, California
- ▶ Only 3 of 12 embryos survived the initial thawing and implantation
- ▶ Implantation of the 3 resulted in negative pregnancy test
- ▶ Remaining 8 were then thawed; three implanted, one survived and was born: Hannah



EMBRYO ADOPTION



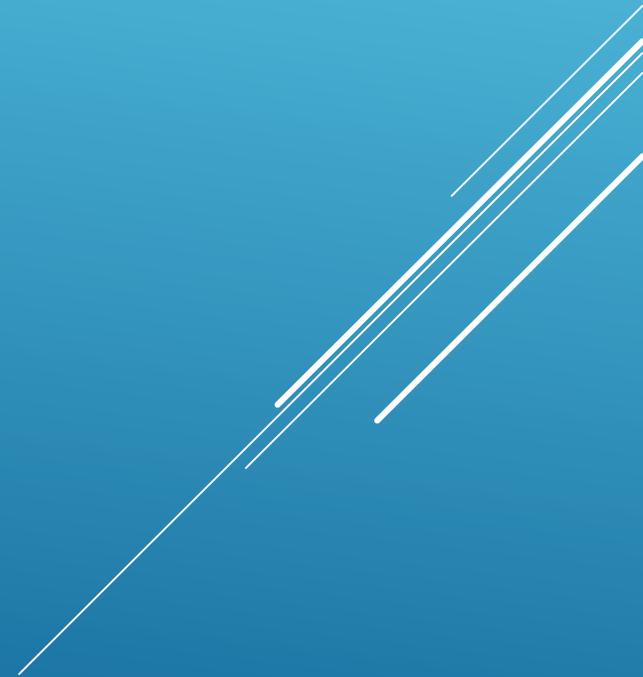
- ▶ “Embryo adoption is perhaps not a moral evil, but we do well to note that neither is it an unqualified good.”
- ▶ It will make irresponsible in vitro activity more likely
- ▶ It will perpetuate the production of “spare embryos” and their eventual death
- ▶ Embryo adoption is morally different than the standard case of adoption – unlike the latter, the genetic parents of embryo adoption have conceived with the intent of abandoning some of their offspring
- ▶ There are questions regarding the appropriateness of Christians to invest great fortunes in pursuit of a child and why couples willing to adopt choose embryos rather than infants

EMBRYO ADOPTION: A TROUBLING ETHICAL CHOICE?



- ▶ Since unused embryos may be returned to their genetic parents for other adoptive parents, what if a brother and sister grow up in separate towns, meet in college, and marry without knowing that they are siblings?
- ▶ What if siblings are adopted separately and one, unknowingly, finds herself or himself sitting on a jury that must determine the guilt or innocence of the other?
- ▶ Is embryo adoption an inefficient method for the implantation and birth of a child?
- ▶ What about requesting certain biological characteristics based on biological donor parents (“embryo shopping”)?

EMBRYO ADOPTION: A TROUBLING ETHICAL CHOICE?





- ▶ It's best to place the frozen embryos into their maternal womb
- ▶ Next, their adoption by a non-biologically related family
- ▶ A couple should not have their frozen embryos destroyed because the embryos are viewed as a financial or social burden
- ▶ Likewise, any frozen embryo that is destroyed for the sake of research is morally reprehensible
- ▶ Parents undergoing IVF or DESI may be persuaded to generate extra embryos knowing that they may be adopted; this will continue to add to the ongoing homeless population of frozen embryos, an unavoidable byproduct of the reproductive technology industry

EMBRYO ADOPTION: A TROUBLING ETHICAL CHOICE?

- ▶ The unicellular zygote (day-old embryo) or the five-day old embryonic blastocyst is a developing human being, scientifically and Scripturally
- ▶ Embryo, pre-embryo, or pre-zygote – the scientific and theological fact remains. The embryo is a human being.
- ▶ Embryo adoption is a viable alternative for addressing the issue of homeless and abandoned frozen embryos
- ▶ However, caution must be addressed to couples intent on becoming involved in this process

EMBRYO ADOPTION



- ▶ An infertile husband and wife
- ▶ A husband and wife who have used IVF to conceive
- ▶ They may still have frozen embryonic children
- ▶ They may have donated embryos for adoption or destruction
- ▶ They may be considering IVF or other ART

PASTORAL CARE

- ▶ A divorced husband or wife struggling over frozen embryo custody or adoption
- ▶ A single woman considering IVF or embryo adoption
- ▶ A married couple considering egg or sperm donation
- ▶ A homosexual man, woman, or couple considering marriage, adoption, IVF, or donation

PASTORAL CARE

- ▶ A congregation full of human men, women, and children, sinful from the time mom and dad conceived them by God's creative power and love, who need to hear the truth of Jesus Who was conceived, born, suffered, died, and rose again for them
- ▶ A Bible Study needing to learn of God's love and forgiveness for them as they experience the spiritual dilemmas of today
- ▶ Young single or married Christians who need to know their identity as baptized sons and daughters of God
- ▶ Young catechumens who need to learn God's gifts of body, soul, mother, father, marriage, children, Word, Sacraments, and faith

PASTORAL CARE

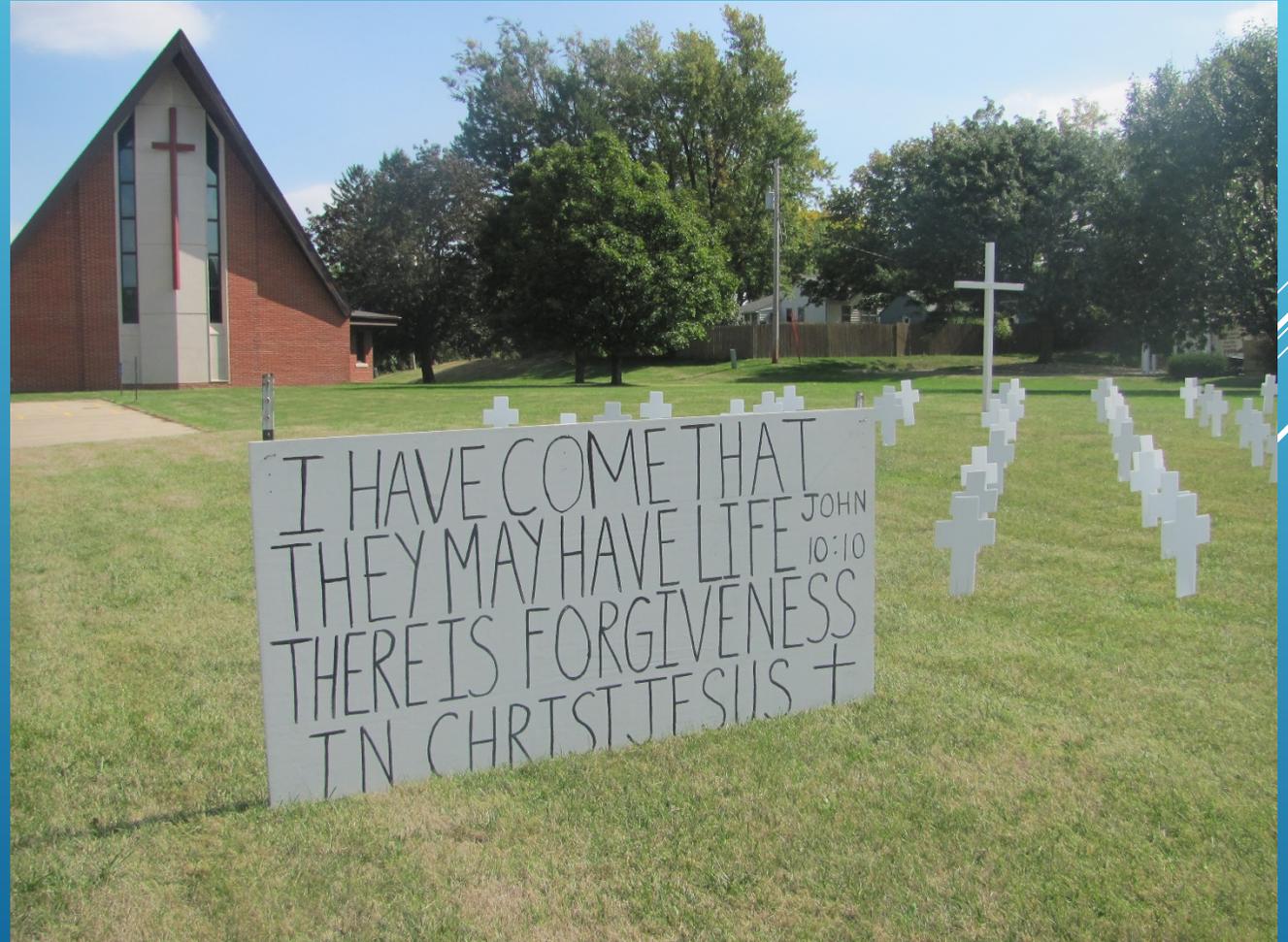


COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS



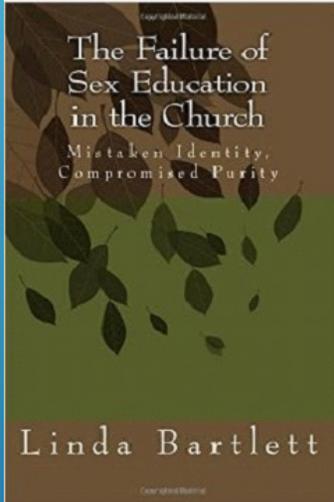
- ▶ Where is your pro-life literature?
- ▶ Where is your pro-life preaching and teaching?
- ▶ Where is your local crisis pregnancy center?
- ▶ How can you petition your elected leaders to support legislative protection for unborn children?
- ▶ How can you publicly demonstrate God's merciful care for people of all ages and conditions?
- ▶ How can you pray that God's will is done in Church, Home and State?

PASTORAL CARE



The Failure of Sex Education

Mistaken Identity, Compromised Purity

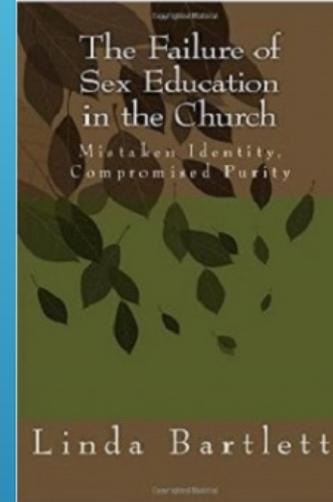


Why do we frustrate boys and girls with an identity that is “sexual” and much talk about the “wow” factor of marital sex, but then recommend delayed marriage? Are we disrupting the rhythm of life? Is there hope? YES! Come to hear Linda Bartlett and a panel of pastors speak on this timely and vital topic for our church!

Sunday, September 13 at 2pm
Faith Lutheran Church, Waterloo

The Failure of Sex Education

Mistaken Identity, Compromised Purity



Our Baptism is a daily reminder to see ourselves the way God does. Sex education is built on a foundation that diametrically opposes God’s design for parents to instruct their children in purity. Come to hear Linda Bartlett and a panel of pastors speak on this timely and vital topic for our

Sunday, October 11 at 2pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Open to Marriage,
Open to Children:



Come hear a special presentation from your District Life Coordinator,
Rev. Alex Post from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown!

Meet a **young child** – what does he want to be when he grows up?

Meet a **young catechumen** – what does she think about marriage?

Meet a **newly married husband and wife** – what do they think about children?

Meet a **mother and father** – what do they say to their children?

Meet a **grandparent** – how does he or she encourage children and grandchildren
with the pro-life message?

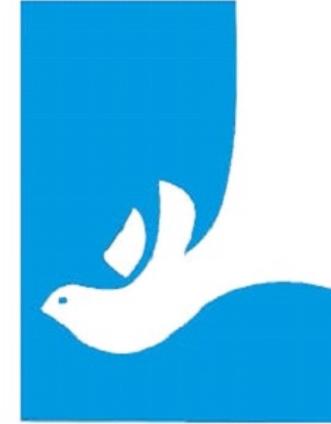
How can **each of us** lovingly and boldly proclaim God's truth to all people?

Lutherans for Life, Lutheran Family Services, Equipping Youth, Bridgehaven,
and other for-life groups will also present!

Sunday, October 18, 2015 @ 2pm
Zion Lutheran Church, Hiawatha

This presentation is perfect for all Christians concerned with life issues,
especially moms, dads, teachers, pastors, elders, and grandparents!

Open to Marriage,
Open to Children:



Come hear a special presentation from your District Life Coordinator,
Rev. Alex Post from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Marshalltown!

Meet a **young child** – what does he want to be when he grows up?

Meet a **young catechumen** – what does she think about marriage?

Meet a **newly married husband and wife** – what do they think about children?

Meet a **mother and father** – what do they say to their children?

Meet a **grandparent** – how does he or she encourage children and grandchildren
with the pro-life message?

How can **each of us** lovingly and boldly proclaim God's truth to all people?

Lutherans for Life, Lutheran Family Services, Agape Pregnancy Center,
and other for-life groups will also present!

Sunday, November 8, 2015 @ 2pm
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Marshalltown

This presentation is perfect for all Christians concerned with life issues,
especially moms, dads, teachers, pastors, elders, and grandparents!