



Life Newsbytes

Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell, convicted May 13 of three counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of unborn babies whose spines were cut during late-term abortion procedures at his West Philadelphia "shop of horrors" clinic, waived his right to an appeal in exchange for consecutive life sentences without parole.

In response, LFL's executive director, Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb wrote, "[A]bortion does not just destroy someone, but someone created by God, someone for whom Jesus died, and someone God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him. We need to raise our voices, not just because these children are precious, but because they are precious to God.

"We need to raise our voices for those deceived by the great evil of abortion. The Gosnell trial reminded us that women die having abortions. For thousands more, something dies within them, something that is replaced with hopelessness and a deep-seated regret. We need to raise our voices so that those so wounded will know that the cross of Jesus paid for their sin, that the empty tomb of Jesus gives them victory and a living hope, and that the ascension of Jesus means He rules over all things and will never forsake them."

The full article—Gosnell Response: Guilty as Charged is Not Enough—is at www.lutheransforlife.org. (LifeNews.com, 5/14/13; Philly.com, 5/16/13; CLR Life News, 5/17/13)

Speaking Up For Life

"What a valuable reminder that while teens may not be known for their ability to verbalize their feelings, they have the same needs as when they were tiny. There is no replacement for Dad's attention, love, acceptance, and healthy affection. In its absence, a substitute will be sought. May Father's Day be every parent's reminder that their child really needs them!"

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<p>Hurting from Abortion?</p> <p>www.word-of-hope.org</p>	A Word of Hope can help.
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www.lutheransforlife.org/conference

Human Cloning – Watch the Language by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

An international team of scientists appears to have cloned human embryos for the purpose of embryonic stem cell research. Lutherans For Life (LFL) reiterates its opposition to human cloning. Cloning is not the creation of life by the hands of God, but the production of human life by the hands of man. God creates life so that we might serve Him. Cloning produces life with the intent of destroying it to serve man. As the discussion of this breakthrough ensues in the work place, schools, and churches, be watchful of the language used.

Before you can have human embryonic stem cells, you must have a human being. Researchers did not clone a bunch of stem cells. They cloned a human being to be destroyed for his or her stem cells. The clone is not developing into a human being. The clone is a developing human being. Although we oppose the method by which this human being comes into existence, he or she is also now our neighbor, someone for whom Jesus shed His blood and who we are to love as ourselves.

A quick review of the cloning process to help us watch our language: The genetic code contained in the nucleus of an ordinary body (soma) cell, such as skin, is transferred into a human egg cell which has had its genetic material removed. (This cloning process is, therefore, called "somatic cell nuclear transfer.") Now you have an egg cell that contains the complete genetic code of the person who donated the skin cell. This cell is stimulated to begin developing just as if the egg had been fertilized. At this point you have a human being who is the genetic twin of the donor of the skin cell.

The intent for the use of this human being in this research is to allow him or her to grow to the blastocyst stage—about five days old—and then remove the stem cells contained in the embryo. This destroys that little boy or girl. Researchers often refer to this as "therapeutic cloning" as the goal is to use those stem cells for the purpose of treating disease.

"Reproductive cloning" is the term used where the end result is implanting the boy or girl embryo into a surrogate womb and eventually resulting in a born baby. That is not the intent of the research in question. Of course, that does not preclude other researchers from pursuing this goal.

So a few points to remember in your discussions:

- The creation of life belongs in the hands of God not man.
- Cloning does not produce a bunch of embryonic stem cells but a human being who contains embryonic stem cells.
- Removing those cells murders a little boy or girl.
- A clone does not develop into a human being. It is a developing human being.
- A human being, regardless of the means of its beginning, is our neighbor for whom Jesus died.
- "Somatic cell nuclear transfer" is cloning.
- The end—seeking the cure of human disease—does not justify the means—intentionally killing human beings.
- We thank God for stem cell research that uses "adult stem cells" or "reprogrammed body cells" and does not involve the destruction of human life.

The full-length version of this article can be found at www.lutheransforlife.org. LFL also offers a number of resources on stem cell research and cloning at www.cph.org.