



Life Newsbytes

On June 10, the U.S. government’s Justice Department dropped its effort to block a judge’s ruling on the availability of the Plan B drug for all women and girls. The drug can cause early abortion and is also referred to as the “morning-after pill.” The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a statement the same day stating it would heed Judge Edward Korman’s April 5th ruling mandating that women and girls of all ages have over-the-counter access to the abortion drug. The agency had fought for months on the age threshold regarding the nonprescription use of Plan B. Opponents critical of the June decision contend young girls should not have access to the drug without the consent or involvement of a parent or a doctor. (Background: In 2006, the FDA approved the over-the-counter access of the drug for women 18 years or older. Minors under the age of 18 were required to obtain a prescription. The FDA later ordered its availability without a prescription to those 17 years of age, and in late April the agency lowered the age to 15 years when a girl could purchase the drug over the counter.) *Source: CitizenLink, 6/11; CLR Life News, 6/13*

Online registration for the 2013 National Lutherans For Life Conference is now available! We hope you can join us in November for a great time of education and fellowship.

Speaking Up For Life

“One of the major signs of decadence in the Roman Empire was that its unwanted babies were exposed, that is, abandoned to die. Can we claim that Western society is any less decadent because it consigns its unwanted babies to the hospital incinerator instead of the local rubbish dump? Reverence for human life is an indispensable characteristic of a humane and civilized society.”

John Stott, English Christian leader and Anglican cleric

Urbandale, Iowa (Des Moines)
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Arks and Towers by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

Technology comes from God. He gave Noah and his sons the ability to use construction technology to build an ark (Genesis 6:9-22). He gave the people at Shinar the ability to use construction technology to make bricks and mortar and build a tower (Genesis 11:1-9). Building the ark was a good use of construction technology. Building the tower was not. Why was that?

Ark construction technology was used according to the will of God. **“Make yourself an ark”** (6:14). Tower technology was used according to the will of man. **“Let us make ...”** (11:3). The ark was God’s plan to rescue humanity and give Himself glory (6:18). The tower was humanity’s plan to give themselves glory (11:4). Ark technology accomplished what God intended to replenish the earth. (8:13-19). Tower technology accomplished just the opposite of what the people intended. They wanted to prevent dispersion (11:4) and ended up dispersed (11:9).

God gives technical abilities to people as He did to Oholiab and Bezalel to craft the furnishings for the temple (Exodus 31:1-11). Our corrupt human nature, however, delights in misusing these gifts. In the very next chapter, Aaron uses craftsmanship to fashion the golden calf! (32:1-4) Technology itself is a gift. The misuse of technology profanes the gift.

Technology involving life abounds. A variety of assisted reproductive technologies offer hope to infertile couples. Stem cell research promises treatment for a range of debilitating diseases. Indeed, the use of adult stem cells presently treats over eighty diseases. Researchers make daily strides in treating cancer. Technology has helped increase our life expectancy.

So how do we know when technology goes from being a blessing to a curse? Here are a few basic questions and principles from the ark/tower comparison.

1. What motivates us to use a particular technology? As they said in *Jurassic Park*, “Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether they could, they never stopped to ask whether they should.”
2. Is the technology in line with the revealed will of God? Technology that uses the intentional destruction of human life, for example, such as embryonic stem cell research, is not according to the will of God.
3. Does our use of a technology give glory to God or to man? We can be so driven by our wants and desires that we leave God out of the picture.
4. Does the technology enhance life or merely prolong dying?

Undoubtedly, more questions could be asked. The most important thing, however, that informs all the above is the fact that God’s primary will for us is the healing of our souls through Jesus Christ and spending eternity with Him. He provides the ark of His Church to bring us safely there. We can trust in Him. We have no reason to “jump ship” to build towers! In spite of our circumstances, we can all look forward to that time when there will be no technologies at all. They will not be needed! Everything will be new! (Revelation 21:1-4)

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