

TOPIC: GENETIC MANIPULATION: DOING GOOD OR PLAYING GOD?
Church & Society - Scott Richards

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to the biological supermarket

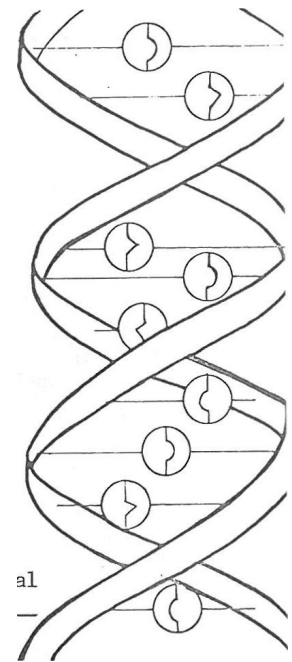
II. THE PROCEDURE OF GENETIC MANIPULATION:

A. General Genetics

- * Deoxyribonucleic Acid= DNA
- * Recombinant DNA isolation and recombination of a gene in massive quantities.
- * Current Research - Can genetic manipulation solve genetic disease?
Can genetic manipulation improve biological characteristics?

B. The Procedure and Promise

- *Amniocentesis - determines genetic make up unborn child for diagnosis (But for what purpose?)
- *Genetic Surgery - the process of correcting a defective gene by means of special enzymes or bacteria. (Develop a treatment for diabetes?)
- *Ectogenesis -The fertilization and gestation of a baby in a special incubator
- **"If one considers the purpose of a drug to be to restore the normal function of some particular process of the body, then DNA should be considered the ultimate drug."*
- *It can be potentially correct birth defects, increase productivity, and even prolong life



III. THE PROBLEM OF GENETIC MANIPULATION:

A. The Problem - Ethics

- * The issue of control
 - Does man have the right to make genetic determinations?
 - What criteria should be used to make them?
- * The Prometheus Complex - Trying to gain control of one's destiny.
Attempt to steal genetic control from God
- * Made in whose image?
- * What is normalcy?
- * *"Men ought not to play God before they have learned to be men, and after they have learned to be men, they will not play God"*

B. The Problem - Biblical Principles

- * The issue of control - Man's mandate in Genesis 1:28
While man's mandate is subdue & rule creation, it is not to change the boundaries of it.
- The boundaries
 - Pre-Fall - Genesis 1:15-17 - Tree of Good & Evil
 - Post fall - Genesis 3:22-24 - Tree of Life
 - Post Flood - Genesis 11:6
 - All boundaries to human progress involved the potential for exercise of god like powers and prerogatives
- * The issue of mercy - The guideline-Galatians 6:10
supportive of advances to relieve suffering



- * The issue of man (Secular - a human species leaping his evolution)
 - His creation - Psalm 139:13-16. Made by God, not by man's design
 - Design - Not self-creation. Psalm 100:3
- * The issue of criteria - Isaiah 45:9
 - Men should not set the standard

CONCLUSION:

- * What can we do about it?
- * Make it a public issue - Ephesians 5:11
- * Realize that nothing is unstoppable
- * Recognize the worthiness of those burdened by genetic afflictions

Notes:

- 1) Paper did not deal with either plant or animal genetic manipulation to either explain them or make ethical distinctions between them and human genetic manipulation
- 2) Paper needed more stress on loss of human life / distinctions as human genetic manipulation continues.
- 3) Paper did not deal with legal ramifications of the procedures. Since the product of genetic manipulation can be gain a patent, can a human who undergoes genetic manipulation become subject to a patent as an object?
- 4) Paper did not deal with the difference between genetic therapy that affects one individual that cannot pass on that genetic trait to offspring and genetic procedures that can be passed down to offspring. (NOTE added 2024: This is a major concern about MRNA technology being used in "Vaccines")



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