

STEM CELL RESEARCH

In the past few years, there has been more misunderstanding regarding the Catholic stance on stem cell research than almost any topic. It is important to have clarity on the issue.

Stem cell research can be beneficial. It offers an ability and promise to treat many diseases that afflict people today. Already, stem cells are used to treat more than seventy different diseases. The controversy lies in how the stem cells are harvested for research.

There are two ways of getting stem cells. One method has been around for nearly forty years, and has paved the way for the treatments that we currently have today. This method uses stem cells gathered from the marrow inside adult bones through a process that does not cause loss of life. This gives us the benefit of science without any morally evil act.

When we obtain stem cells in a way that kills human beings, we defeat the purpose of the research in the first place. Some stem cells are gathered when human life at its beginning stages, stripping the stem cells from human embryos. This kills the person who was growing. Killing people and using their body parts for others is a step backward for humanity and it sounds like a bad story from the Holocaust.

As Catholics, we have a duty to use science for the benefit of humanity by increasing our knowledge of the way that the world works and helping those who can use it. We must never use science to exploit those who need our protection the most.

REFERENCES

Ps. 139:14-16, Gn. 1:26-27, Jer. 1:5, Mt. 10:30, Is. 49:16, Ps. 127:3-5, Jb. 10:8-12, Is. 44:2, Eccl. 11:5

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