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GENETIC ENGINEERING

Respecting the integrity of genetic research and its outcome, as Christians we recognize the limitations God places on us as his faithful people. The following questions and statements are offered as a beginning of another discussion of these matters:

1. WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS IF WE THINK TOO MUCH OF OURSELVES AS MERELY A COLLECTION OF HEALTHY AND UNHEALTHY GENES?

If we think of human beings as merely the product of their genes we diminish the sense of responsibility or accountability for our actions and our future. We begin to think of ourselves in biological terms alone rather than as embodied spirits. This is in conflict with the biblical calling to repentance and the living of holy lives.

2. WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT A HUMAN EMBRYO IF WE USE IT FOR RESEARCH?

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. . . Christ died for the ungodly." (Rom. 5:6) People made in the Image of God are embodied eternal beings who ought to be cared for, not destroyed.

4. HOW MIGHT GENETIC RESEARCH FOR ENHANCEMENT LEAD TO THE

7. WHAT DO FUTURE HOPES FOR PREVENTION OF AGING AND DEATH THROUGH GENETICS SAY ABOUT HOW WE UNDERSTAND AGING AND DEATH TODAY?

Ultimately, suffering and death have meaning only in relationship to God. Otherwise, they appear as meaningless and in need of elimination. The focus on preventing aging and eliminating death is both impossible and diverts attention from the one whom we will stand before as Judge at the end of life. Aging and death are spiritual problems; a result of the Fall. But Christ has overcome them and promises us eternal life with him. It is not wrong per se to work toward the extension of human life, but it is not where our hope lies. "Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Rom. 7: 24 - 25).

8. WHAT DOES THE HOPE OF HUMAN CLONING SAY ABOUT HOW WE UNDERSTAND THE HUMAN BODY?

We always risk thinking of the human body as a machine in need of replacement parts when it is, in the greater reality, a living organism created and supported by God, in whose Image we are made. The integrity of the human body requires that we think of it wholistically, not merely as the sum total of its individual parts. We are more than our bodies, but not less than them either. We are, in truth, embodied spirits and we believe in "the resurrection of the body." Christ was made flesh and blood for us and won our salvation for body and soul.