



W A T E R M A R K
C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

Issue of Cryopreservation Options

In matters pertaining to the sanctity of life, the leadership of Watermark Community Church has held to the biblical position that all life is sacred and any action taken by man to end the life of a child prior to birth would be deemed to be against the precepts of Scripture. The same position is held pertaining to medically assisted suicide issues. The elders have been asked to give the church's position on the question regarding the delicate issue of frozen embryos or cryopreservation, specifically the issue of embryos not placed back in the mother. It is our conviction that life begins when the egg of the woman is united with the sperm of the man resulting in the creation of the embryo. The Scriptures are clear regarding the following truths that serve as our basis for conviction. One, God intimately knows us prior to birth (Ps 139:13-15). Secondly, all humans are made in the image of God and therefore are priceless (Genesis 1:26, 27). Thirdly, God alone determines our days (Ps 139:16). Though the medical science has presented various options to bring the sperm and egg together resulting in an embryo and these various methods are not detailed in Scripture, the fact remains that it is His design and supernatural power that creates life from the egg and sperm. It was true when the Scriptures were written and it remains true today.

What is absolutely clear from God's word is what is written is our guide in all things it addresses (2 Tim.3:16). His word speaks to the sanctity of life (above), where and when life begins (Ps 139), His sovereign control (Rom.8:28), and His providential control of all life (Eph 1:11). Even with all the science available, nothing in our opinion has been introduced that changes the elements necessary for creation of life and God's intention for it.

The elders of Watermark Community Church do not pretend to have cornered the market on all wisdom and spiritual knowledge. We do, however, operate and shepherd our people with great fear and trembling in all matters entrusted to us. The delicate task of shepherding one another in the area of conception is certainly one of these sensitive areas. We continue to speak truth as we understand it and stand firmly where God's word is clear. In areas that are not clear, we choose to defer to various biblical principles and the individual's conscience.

With all that said, we want to be perfectly clear on our position on this issue. Because of the sanctity of life, specifically that we are made in His image and that we are known by Him prior to birth, we believe that any embryo is the beginning of life and should be regarded as such. It is our opinion that embryos that begin outside the womb should be used for immediate placement in the mother and we would not recommend the excessive creation of embryos whereby freezing the embryos for further use is left to an uncertain future. The leadership of Watermark Community Church does not desire to be the judge of things unspoken in Scripture but we would strongly encourage all men and women to value life and when decisions must be made, make them in favor of life. If we must err, let us err on the side of life.

Respectfully,

Watermark Elders