

BASIC PRINCIPLES AND NATURE OF A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE DEBATE REGARDING ADVANCES OF TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

1. Introduction

There is a continued development in the field of medicine and technology and man is more and more capable of playing God and attempts are even made to create life. The nature of a Christian perspective is that these advances made in medical technology and medicine in general should be used to serve God, to improve the life of humans, to control and cultivate what God has given us and states that we are not able or allowed to play God but only to serve Him through the use of this technology. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:33)

2. Principles

Various principles has been formulated which directly opposes the humanistic view which sees the task of medicine to be that of creating life, to fabricate certain genes and sees the role of medicine being to control nature and to possess power over it as the creation. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:34)

The first principle of the Christian perspective states that God alone is sovereign and therefore is the only being in the universe able to create any living organism and man therefore has no right to attempt to control human life. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:33)

The second principle states that humans are made in the image of God and we therefore represent and resemble God and we therefore have the responsibility of taking care of our bodies and to ensure that the deceased are buried with the dignity they deserve. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:33)

The third principle places the emphasis on the sanctity of life and states that human life must be viewed as sacred and holy. This principle forms the basis of the pro-life stance which ranges from conception to death. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:33)

The fourth principle of the Christian perspective comments on the mortality of life and states that the consequence of the fallen world in which we live is death and that man is mortal and any attempt made to make man immortal is futile and misdirected. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:33)

The fifth and last principle states that love is the essence of Christianity and therefore love needs to be applied in all areas of the Christians ethical responsibilities and that scripture must be sought when guidance is needed. (Joubert, Rostoll, Esterhuizen & Coetzee, 2012:33-34)

References

Joubert, N.L., Rostoll, U., Esterhuizen, E., Coetzee, Z., (2012). *Christian Ethics 2B*. Unpublished Study Manual, Germiston, ICP