



Human Dignity in the Biotech Century: A Christian Vision for Public Policy (Colson, Charles)

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What will be the greatest moral challenge facing our society throughout this century?

Are we *ready* to face it?

Editors Charles W. Colson and Nigel M. de S. Cameron, along with a panel of expert contributors, make the case in this book that the greatest watershed debates of the twenty-first century concerning ethics and public policy will surround the issue of biotechnology. In twelve essays they address several of the legal and ethical challenges before us: embryo research, stem cell research, cloning, genetic engineering, gene therapy, pharmacogenomics, cybernetics, nanotechnology and, of course, abortion.

Contributors include

- William L. Saunders, J. D., Family Research Council
- Christopher Hook, M.D., The Mayo Clinic
- Henk Jochemsen, Ph.D., Free University of Amsterdam
- David A. Prentice, Ph.D., Indiana State University
- Nathan A. Adams IV, Ph.D., J.D., Christian Legal Society
- David Stevens, M.D., Christian Medical Association
- Paige Comstock Cunningham, J. D., Americans United for Life
- C. Ben Mitchell, Ph.D., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Richard Doerflinger, M.A., Secretariat for Pro-life, National Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Wesley J. Smith, J.D., International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

Leaders in their fields, these contributors point out the crucial role Christians can and should play in the public square. The well-informed and forward-looking

perspectives they present will help us prepare for the challenges ahead.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This essay collection provides a worthwhile, if somewhat uneven, selection of conservative Christian thought about biotechnology and its ethical and legal implications. Colson and Cameron assemble a reliable team of contributors, weighted more towards organizational leaders and lobbyists than academics. In general, subtlety is not a strong point here. Colson characterizes therapeutic use of embryonic stem cells as "high-tech cannibalism," a practice that "will lead inevitably to the abolition of humankind and the ultimate end of Western civilization as we know it." Yet some other contributors (including Paige Comstock Cunningham, a former president of Americans United for Life) reach out to a wider audience, recognizing that on issues of cloning and genetic engineering, pro-life conservatives may find unexpected allies among pro-choice advocates and Greens, who share their suspicions of eugenics and biotech capitalism. Other highlights include David Prentice's calculations of the feasibility of "therapeutic" cloning for major diseases such as diabetes and Christopher Hook's discussion of "transhumanism," using cybernetics and nanotechnology to enhance human potential. Overall, the volume cannot quite deliver on the promise of its subtitle: there is not enough of a coherent theological framework here to constitute a Christian vision for public policy. But there are certainly some promising suggestions for Christian public advocacy.

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Review

"This collection gathers essays from top bioethics thinkers and activists. Pick among topics such as learning from our mistakes, new technology, genetics, and transhumanism. Get ready for the science fiction realities of the 21st century, and get involved!" (Paige C. Cunningham, *Dignitas*, Winter 2009)

"This volume comprises essays from the top thinkers and activists in the field on topics like learning from past mistakes, new technology, genetics, and transhumanism. Get ready for the science fiction realities of the 21st century, and get involved." (Paige C. Cunningham, *Christianity Today*, November 2009)

"Each article is well-referenced and hence quite helpful in pointing readers to a wealth of published material in academic journals and books, popular literature and news, and various academic and popular websites."
(Jason T. Eberl for *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, Fall 2007)

From the Author

"Just as most Christians were asleep thirty years ago when *Roe v. Wade* was decided and abortion on demand became legal, we are again in danger of sleeping through another moral catastrophe. With the latest advances in biotechnology, not only are we taking upon ourselves the god-like prerogative of ending human life as we choose (as we have done with abortion and euthanasia), but we are attempting to appropriate the god-like prerogative of making human life as we choose. The most profound question we are being asked today is which is the more grievous sin against God—to take life created in his image or to make life created in man's image?"

—Charles W. Colson, Co-Editor, "Human Dignity in the Biotech Century"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary McDonald:

Book is actually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can know everything you want by a reserve. Book has a different type. As you may know that book is important thing to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading skill was fluently. A book Human Dignity in the Biotech Century: A Christian Vision for Public Policy (Colson, Charles) will make you to become smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about everything. But some of you think that will open or reading a book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you seeking best book or ideal book with you?

Amanda Furr:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read any book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book Human Dignity in the Biotech Century: A Christian Vision for Public Policy (Colson, Charles) it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

George Bash:

Is it anyone who having spare time in that case spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Human Dignity in the Biotech Century: A Christian Vision for Public Policy (Colson, Charles) can be the reply, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these publications have than the others?

Richard Broderick:

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