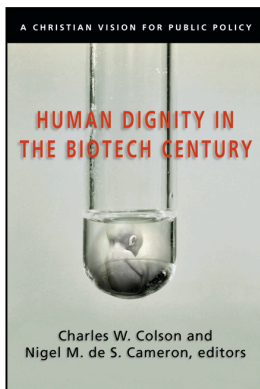


***Human Dignity in the Biotech Century:
A Christian Vision for Public Policy***

Charles W. Colson and Nigel M. de S. Cameron, editors



"If ever there was need and opportunity for Christians to shape culture, it is now," write Charles W. Colson and Nigel M. de S. Cameron.

The contributors to *Human Dignity in the Biotech Century* make the case that biotechnology is the next front in the battles over ethics and public policy, and Christians need to bring their influence to bear on the debates.

"The whole idea of producing humans for body parts or for stem cells may sound appealing to some, but it will lead inevitably to the abolition of humankind and the ultimate end of Western civilization as we know it," Colson writes. "The stakes really are that large."

These twelve essays, contributed by scholars and leaders who are part of Colson's Wilberforce Forum, alert readers to the ethical and legal challenges we face in the new genetics, involving embryo research, stem cell research, cloning, genetic engineering, gene therapy, pharmacogenomics, cybernetics, nanotechnology and abortion.

Human Dignity in the Biotech Century is another step the Wilberforce Forum (www.pfm.org) is taking to help the

church play a vital role in the biotech debates. They have also developed Sunday school curriculum, an online bioethics certificate program, a biotechpolicy.org website and a monthly *Biotech Update* e-mail newsletter.

"We need to get a grip on biotechnology and the bioethical considerations that go along with it," Colson challenges. "It is time for people to get educated, to think about these profound moral questions that affect the future of the human race."

"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, Human Dignity in the Biotech Century