FROM:

Why the Church Needs Bioethics

For Further Reading: 75 Suggestions

Part 1: Better Birth
Part 2: Better Life
Part 3: Better Death
Overall: Bioethics

Part 1: Better Birth

(See also the suggested readings in the general “Bioethics” section)

A defense of human equality and nondiscrimination that explains the shortcomings of various arguments that people have voiced in support of abortion.

Answers from a Christian perspective to the 40 most common questions people ask about these topics, in easily-understood language.

A wide range of secular counseling resources to help infertile people, including attention to the relevant ethical issues in counseling.

Numerous non-religious reasons why human embryos are persons due the same basic protections as other people.

Investigates how materialistic culture has fostered families more inward-focused and insecure in their Christian identity, increasingly unengaged in helping others.
An Old Testament scholar presents a classic set of essays discussing abortion in various settings including the Bible and the Ancient Near East.

Biblically-based presentation of the whats, whys, and whens of sex, with implications for an array of reproductive technologies.

Hui, Edwin C. At the Beginning of Life: Dilemmas in Theological Bioethics. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2002.
Discusses in theological perspective what constitutes personhood and the implications for abortion and an array of reproductive and genetic technologies.

An examination of what Christian tradition has taught about the human embryo through the ages, with implications for contemporary bioethics debates.

Essays from leading Christians in bioethics examining such issues as birth control pills, Viagra, IVF, surrogacy, cloning, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Helps laypeople and pastors to clarify debates over the life-related issues such as abortion, answer objections, and teach others.

A feature writer for the Washington Post describes in secular terms the amazing and disturbing array of reproductive technology options available today.

A theologian explores the differences between understanding childbearing in terms of human procreation and seeing it as a form of technological reproduction.

This update of Christian ethicist Rae’s Brave New Families argues for some limits on reproductive technologies such as requiring the use of husband+wife gametes.

A descriptive non-religious account of the enterprise of conceiving and bearing children, presenting it as a *business* first and foremost.


Answers from a Christian perspective to the 27 most common questions people ask about these topics, in easily-understood language.


A Protestant view of assisted reproduction that advances an overriding principle of reproductive stewardship.


An examination of issues at the intersection of business and health care, comparing ways that incentives operate and health care delivery is structured.

### Part 2: Better Life

*(See also the suggested readings in the general “Bioethics” section)*


The medical editor of *Today’s Christian Doctor* and a husband-wife Christian medical team offer practical advice for maintaining mental sharpness.


In an ongoing series of biblically sound articles, a Mayo Clinic neurologist explores questions of cognitive enhancement and other issues of neuroethics.


A collection of essays by Christian leaders including Christopher Hook’s chapter on nanotechnology, cybernetics, transhumanism, and the remaking of humankind.
A secular exploration of how the drive to self-fulfillment through personal enhancement is ultimately disappointing, leading to a “tyranny of happiness.”

Describes how drugs and other biotechnologies threaten to alter human nature, and offers nonreligious reasons to put limits on biotechnology.

A multi-authored secular mapping of the ethical landscape of questions posed by new scientific knowledge of brain function, including a chapter on enhancement.

Ethicists, clinicians, and others appraise emerging developments in biomedicine, including the implications of artificial intelligence for notions of personhood.

A team of bioethicists analyze enhancement biotechnologies and outline a philosophical and theological framework for promoting a truly human future.

A multidisciplinary study of the values that shape modern technology.

An explanation of how the use of nanotechnologies for human and “posthuman” enhancement may challenge values and beliefs concerning human dignity.

How developments in the cognitive sciences, including attempts to modify intelligence, are reformulating theological questions in good ways.

A public discussion of the ethical challenges of biotechnologies that have dual uses in treating the sick and in making the healthy perform or feel better.
A Harvard professor argues in secular terms that the quest for mastery and perfection of human nature endangers the view of human life as a gift.

The impact of digital information overload on the brain and strategies for surviving technological immersion while avoiding “techno-brain burnout.”

The president of Gonzaga University considers how notions of personhood and the pursuit of happiness guide the quest for enhanced meaning and purpose in life.

A physician-futurist advocates for restoring margin to lives overloaded by the hurried activity, accelerated change, stress and fatigue of modern life.

Major trends in contemporary culture, including transhumanist enhancement, that profoundly influence one’s understanding of the world and the Christian faith.

An examination of the religious foundations underlying faith in technology and anticipated advances in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and robotics.

**Part 3: Better Death**

 *(See also the suggested readings in the general “Bioethics” section)*

A hospice and palliative care specialist writes from a secular point of view with inspiring case histories.


An anthology of essays by Christian writers surveying many of the key ethical dilemmas that arise toward the end of life.

A seminal work in the field looking at the stages of dealing with death from a secular point of view.

A team of Christian authors address many ethical challenges involved in aging along with contemporary aspirations to avoid death.

A Christian journalist uses medieval teaching on dying to demonstrate how the death of Jesus exemplifies what it means do come to the end of life well.

A textbook for pastors with an especially good section presenting a biblical approach to the end of life.

This pair of short volumes provides answers from a Christian perspective to the questions people ask most about end-of-life issues, in easily-understood language.

Quadriplegic Joni and her pastor consider the difficulties of life from God’s perspective.

**Overall: Bioethics**

*(See also the suggested readings in sections 1. 2. and 3 above)*

A discussion of Hippocratic medicine’s protection of life from conception to death, and the dangers of abandoning that tradition, with theological implications.

A theologian from Asia explains theological foundations for bioethics, current issues in bioethics, and the role of the church.

An academically rigorous analysis of Christian bioethics and the widening gulf between it and secular bioethics.

A consideration of decision making and prominent ethical (including many bioethical) issues from a biblical-theological perspective.

An application of biblical principles to a range of issues in bioethics.

An analysis of the impact of biotechnology on various bioethical challenges by a biblically-grounded Jewish scholar at the University of Chicago.

A biblical-Christian overview of bioethics in easily-understood language, addressing right vs. wrong and issues in health care and biotechnology.

A thousand pages of article-length discussions of a wide range of bioethical issues and underlying theological perspectives.

A short introduction to bioethics from a Christian perspective raising some cautions about various practices increasingly becoming commonplace options.

A Christian medical ethicist analyzes well over 100 medical cases from his own medical practice—cases that deal with a wide range of bioethical challenges.

Catholic medical ethicists discuss Christian vs. other contemporary approaches to decision-making and various bioethical issues.


A critical assessment of various religious and secular approaches to bioethics, plus the development of a Christian approach for a secular culture.


A Princeton ethicist helps launch the field of bioethics with this book showing the very concrete implications of Christian faith for issues of life and health.


An ethicist and a physician reassess assumptions of modern medicine and consider theology’s contribution to understanding the body and bioethical issues.


A European bioethicist considers the challenges of bioethics with special attention to the European setting and what Christian perspective contributes.


A quadriplegic activist and a bioethicist explain many emerging biomedical technologies and why Christians need to pay attention to what’s unfolding.


A pastor, seminary professor, and former health care administrator explains what it looks like for evangelical Christians to address bioethical issues.


A pastor, seminary professor, and attorney examines the foundations of bioethics and their implications for challenges at the beginning and end of life.


An exploration of what the resources of Christian community and biblical teaching contribute to an understanding of a number of medical-ethical issues.

A Christian critique of developments in biotechnology and the emerging posthuman denial of mortality, affirming instead being embodied, finite, mortal.

A compact discussion of the principles and issues of bioethics, in Christian perspective, with a special eye to assisting pastors in their ministry with patients.