

The Voiceless

The child is seven, but nobody cares. His body longs for food, but it receives only bruises. His mind demands knowledge, but it gets only neglect. His heart longs for love, but it is harshly refused. His voice whispers for a chance, but no one listens. He is one of the voiceless.

A chance. That's what America was built on; the chance to worship freely, the chance to speak out, the chance to build a new life, the chance to *have* life. In America, opportunities abound, and these opportunities exist to make our lives better. Part of the whole idea of "a chance" is the opportunity for *everyone* to have that chance. America professes to give everyone, no matter their race, color, or disabilities, a fair share in the freedoms and opportunities available. In this same county, however, there are those who are not afforded the same rights, or any rights at all. These, too, are the voiceless, the ones who, if they could, would cry out against injustice just as loudly as those privileged with life cry out for their own rights.

If they could, these "voiceless" would cry out against what deprives human beings of life: assisted suicide, euthanasia, abortion. Although it is not as widely realized, embryonic stem cell research also deprives these voiceless of the chance to live. Many people doggedly defend this branch of research, using its potential as a sedative against the negative side affects. The reality is, however, that these miraculous results have yet to manifest themselves.¹ Chuck Donovan, president of the Charlotte Lozier Institute, put it this way: "For decades, stem cells obtained by destroying unique, living human beings were heralded for their potential ability to cure numerous diseases and

¹ "Why Stem Cells?"

conditions. However, while funding for this research initially boomed, efficient therapies did not.”² While the public attention is switching more towards the relatively new field of adult stem cell research, there are still those who cling to embryonic stem cells as the answer to disease. Adult stem cell research, however, has yielded much positive result and is quickly showing itself superior to ESCR, where successful results are still wanting.³ Because of ASCR, over one million individuals have received successful therapy treatments, and the number is rapidly growing. Adult stem cells are more flexible than embryonic stem cells and have been used to treat over 73 different medical conditions, including brain cancer, Parkinson’s disease, breast cancer, type one diabetes, osteoporosis, spine injury, and stroke damage⁴, and new therapies are being developed.⁵ Additionally, because adult stem cells naturally exist in grown human bodies⁶, no immune-suppressing drugs must be taken to stop the body from combating their presence, as is the case with the undeveloped embryonic stem cells. This decreases the patient’s risk of contracting a disease because of the presence of the new cells.⁷ Clearly, embryonic cells are not only less effective than adult stem cells, but they also cause negative side effects that do not exist with adult stem cell therapy.

There is a much more important argument against ESCR, however, than just the fact that it is less effective. In the process of trying to develop beneficial therapies for people’s lives, scientists are, in fact, destroying life itself. Embryonic stem cell research

² Quigley. “Adult Stem Cell Research Has Defeated Embryonic Stem Cells For Funding Priorities.”

³ “Adult Stem Cell Research (ASCR) Basics”

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “Why Stem Cells?”

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Murnaghan. “Adult vs Embryonic Stem Cells”

uses embryos that are several days to one week old, and conception occurs after only 12-24 hrs.⁸ This means that every embryo used in ESCR must be killed in order for its cells to be harvested. Although individuality doesn't occur before day 14, every embryo, from the moment of conception, is fully human and fully alive. Even lab-created embryos are life forms, displaying all four criteria for life, and have every potential to continue to develop.⁹ "Unlike bodily cells and sperm cells, which are merely part of a larger organism, the human embryo is already a distinct whole and self-integrated human being. It is not merely part of another organism. In fact, it is not part of any organism. It is its own distinct entity...in other words, you and I."¹⁰ In order for ESCR to be conducted, human life must be ended.

All this shows, then, that not only is ESCR less effective than ASCR and possessing of negative side effects, but more importantly, it must destroy human embryos to be conducted. But why does it matter? Though there hasn't been any major progress with ESCR so far, it could possibly yield influential results with more time. So then, does it really matter if some week-old fetuses are being destroyed for this research? Simply put, yes! Even with the evidence showing that ESCR is ineffective, what really matters is that human life is valuable. Whether it is a successful adult, a child living on the streets, or an undeveloped human, God has created life "as the first of his works." Many will protest over the loss of a forest or the killing of animals, but when it comes to the destruction and exploitation of human life, they are strangely silent. They turn their

⁸ Brahm. "8 Bad Arguments For Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research"

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

eyes and silence their mouths in the name of science. The truth is, however, these valuable lives being lost cannot speak for themselves.

America has always emphasized the chance for people to protest when their rights are violated. These lives that are being destroyed in the name of ESCR, however, are cut short before they even have a voice to fight for these rights guaranteed to all. Valuable life is being lost for ineffective research. If these lives could, they would cry out for a chance, a chance to *live*.

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