

Faith & Reason Group Discussion Questions – January 24, 2025

HUMAN GENE EDITING AND CLONING

Tools That Help Us Or Tools That Turn Us Into Things?

Discussion prompt #1 ([link](#) from **3:05** through **25:15**, 2 minutes per person)

select themes, references

- [see slides on parallel printouts for biological summary]
- Gene editing applications: targeted therapies (better than cell therapy), chimeras, organ production, transhumanism, “end of genetic disease”, designer babies
- Limits: polygeny (trait caused by many genes), pleiotropy (gene impacts many traits)

Briefly introduce yourself, how and why you came tonight, and describe what you think of the distinction (if any) between healing or protective medical technology and “human enhancement” ... have you run into such a grey area in your own life?

- [obviously only examples you are at liberty to share in public]

Discussion prompt #2 ([link](#) from **25:15** through **51:45**, 2 minutes per person)

select themes, references

- Controversial applications: embryonic human models for clinical testing, germ line edits and implantation via IVF (e.g., CCR5 knockout to help kids avoid HIV)
- Potential challenges: embryo stockpiles (especially via cloning), irreproachability of arguments from human suffering, limits of egg harvesting, “how many weeks?”
- Alternatives for clinical benefits: induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), organoids

How do you draw moral lines where scientific and technological progress help some humans but dehumanize (at some scale) human life, identity, dignity?

- *To be clear, our intended focus is not so much WHAT your particularly red lines or policy leanings are but rather HOW you arrive at them, especially in light of tonight’s topic and themes (summarized above). Feel free to share stances, yet do so with humility and grace – mindful of the tricky, sensitive territory.*