

# Conference on Bioethical Issues

Friday, October 29, 2004

Posters from Small Group Sessions

## GROUP 1

# Animal rights versus Human Rights

## Why do human rights trump animal rights?

Biblical: Humans are created in God's image.

• Gen 1:26,27 Let us create man in our image

• Matt 6 Jesus "Are you not much more valuable than they (sparrows)"

Humans are more valuable to God than animals

Natural Moral Law: Ultimate Capacity

### Cats

- Primitive thought
- Eat
- Relationship
- Cat like desires

### Humans

- Respectful Relationship
- Religious Experiences
- Advanced thought
- Ability to Create

Our ultimate capacity determines our species' worth.

**GROUP 2**  
**Assisted  
Procreation  
and Cloning**

The Right to Reproduce

IVF is acceptable by moral means only... What is moral?

IVF is never moral if:

- We believe we are playing God
- We believe it is unnatural
- is infertility God's Will?

IVF is always moral if:

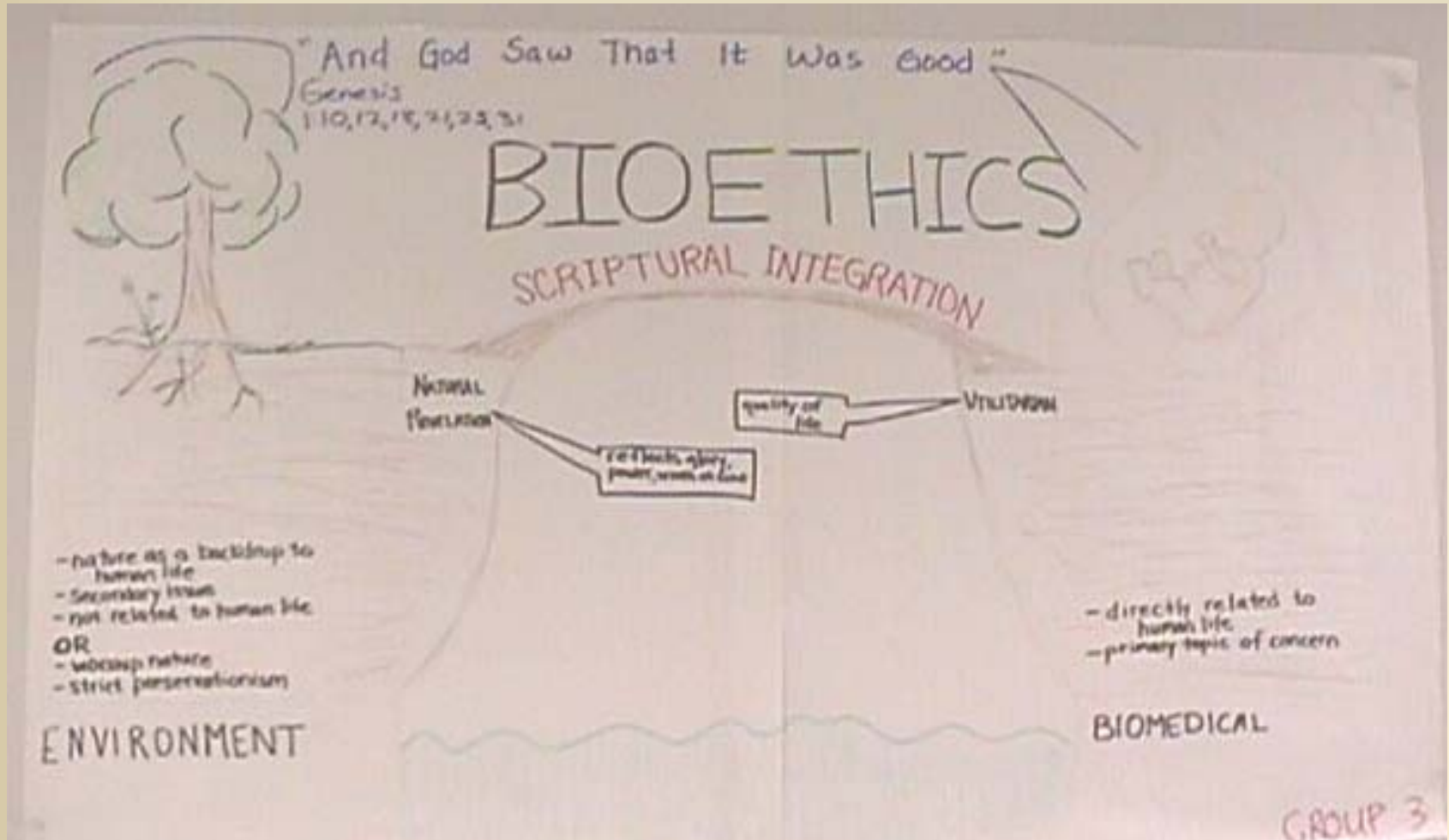
- If there is 0% risk of failure & every embryo is implanted.

IVF is sometimes moral if

if every embryo is given a chance to implant  
and freezing doesn't increase risk to embryo  
and embryo is not treated as a commodity

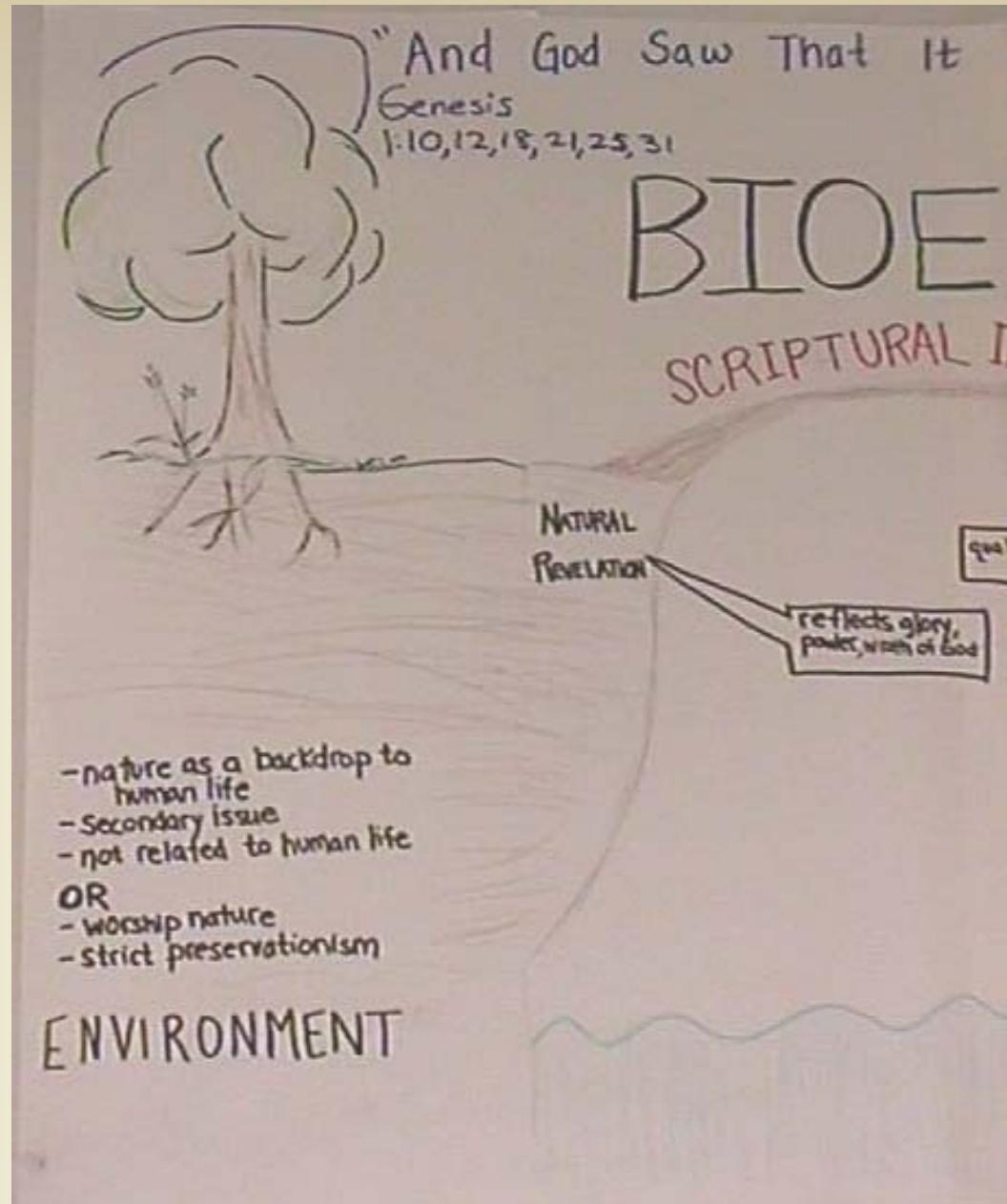
# GROUP 3

## Stewardship of Biological Diversity

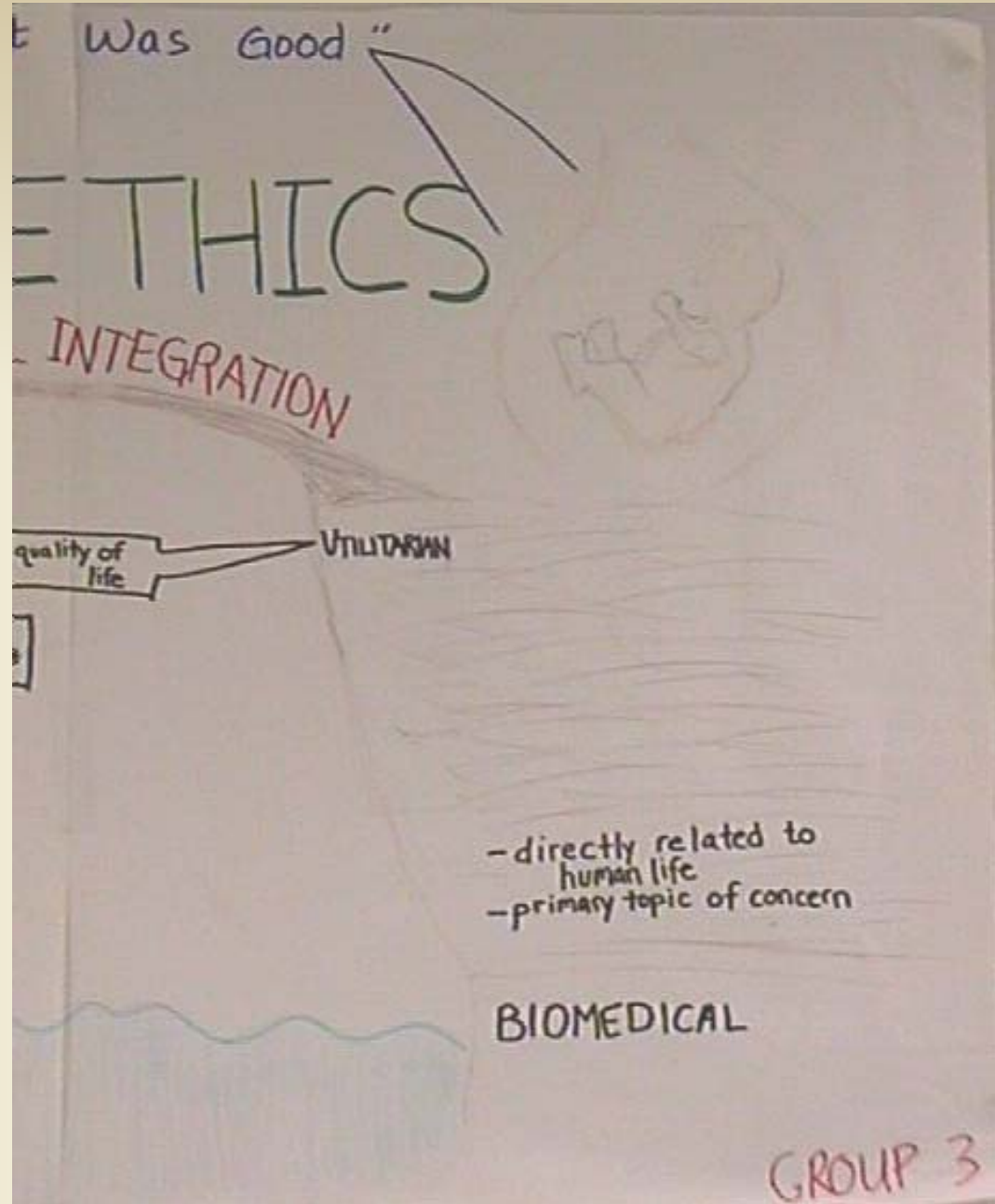


## GROUP 3

# Stewardship of Biological Diversity

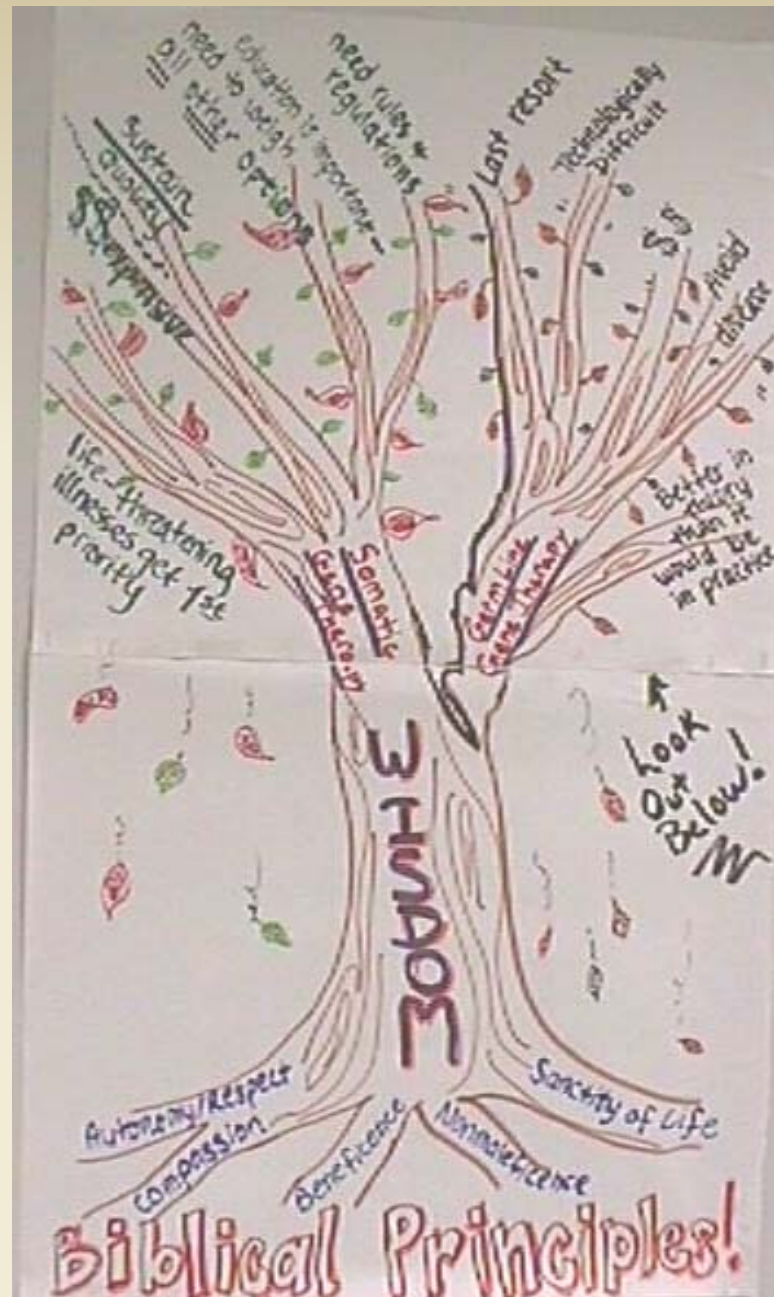


**GROUP 3**  
**Stewardship**  
**of Biological**  
**Diversity**



# GROUP 4

## Genetic Intervention



# GROUP 5

## Genetic Intervention

Examples:

- Somatic intervention for healing
- \* Germ line intervention for genetic predispositions
- ▲ Aesthetic traits



JIM



Conclusions:

- Somatic intervention is "OK" with patient consent
- Germ line intervention creates issues w/ Principle of Autonomy
- God is active to what extent in genetic development?

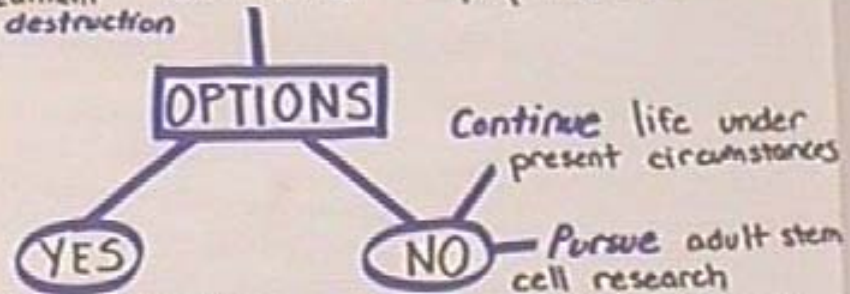
**GROUP 6**  
**Human Stem**  
**Cell**  
**Treatments**

Is it morally just to destroy one life to improve the quality of another?

- Physical facts
- 24 years since the onset of an untreatable illness
  - good job, family, financially secure
  - Christian family
  - Stem cell treatment requires the destruction of embryos



- Psychological facts
- Pressure from the Christian community
  - wants to be able to show his sons how to play basketball



**Utilitarianism:** Since the embryos are being discarded anyway, one should use them for the betterment of humanity. (Example: Hitler's inhumane research on Jews)  
**Presupposition:** Embryos are not human life.

**Presupposition:** Embryos ARE human life.

- Gen 1:26,27 - life was created in God's image
- Ps 139:13-16 - life begins in the womb
- Jer 1:5 - personhood before birth
- Luke 1:41 - recognition & communication in the womb

**GROUP 6**  
**Human Stem**  
**Cell**  
**Treatments**

# EMBRYONIC STEM CELL TREATMENT

## PRESUPPOSITIONS

### THEISTIC

1. THERE IS A GOD.  
- GEN. 1:1 -
2. GOD CREATED HUMAN LIFE, THEREFORE LIFE HAS VALUE. - GEN. 1:26-6 -
3. ITS NOT MORALLY PERMISSIBLE TO TAKE AN INNOCENT LIFE  
- EX. 20:13 -
4. EMBRYO REPRESENTS HUMAN LIFE FROM CONCEPTION. - JER. 1:5 -

### NATURAL LAW

1. TAKING INNOCENT HUMAN LIFE IS MORALLY WRONG.
2. HUMAN LIFE IS THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE BASIC HUMAN CAPACITIES.
3. THE EMBRYO HAS THE BASIC CAPACITY THAT CHARACTERIZES HUMAN LIFE.

## CONCLUSION

AN EMBRYO IS A HUMAN LIFE & IT IS MORALLY WRONG TO DESTROY IT, THEREFORE EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH SHOULD NOT BE CONDONED.



# GROUP 7

## Environmental Toxins



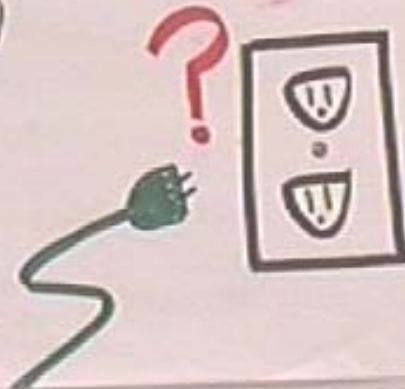
## GROUP 8

### End Of Life Decisions

Case 1: Choosing to Pull the Plug?



Death: Is pulling  
the plug murder/  
suicide?



**GROUP 8**

**End Of Life  
Decisions**

Case 2: Anencephalic Baby  
+ Organ Harvest



Definition of Death?

