

Bioethics and the Christian Life

Adult Sunday School, Amoskeag Presbyterian Church

February to April 2010

Instructor: Pastor Gregory E. Reynolds

Text: David VanDrunen, *Bioethics and the Christian Life: A Guide to Making Difficult Decisions* (Crossway Books, 2009)

WEEK 1 (February 7)

Introduction: The Christian Confronts Bioethics (11-19)

I. FOUNDATIONS OF BIOETHICS

Chapter 1 – Christianity and Health Care in a Fallen World (21-37)

WEEK 2 (February 14)

Chapter 2 – Theological Doctrines (39-67)

- The Sovereignty of God and Divine Providence (39-45)
- Human Nature and the Image of God (45-54)

WEEK 3 (February 21)

- Death and Resurrection (54-61)
- Suffering (61-65)
- The Limits of Human Nature and Human Action (66-67)

WEEK 4 (February 28)

Chapter 3 – Christian Virtues (69-94)

- Faith (71-74)
- Hope (74-79)
- Love (79-83)

WEEK 5 (March 7)

- Courage (83-87)
- Contentment (87-90)
- Wisdom (91-94)

II. THE BEGINNING OF LIFE

WEEK 6 (March 14)

Chapter 4 – Marriage, Procreation, and Contraception (95-117)

- The Nature and Purpose of Marriage (97-103)
- Preliminary Reflections on Procreation (103-105)
- How Many Children to Have (105-114)
- Method of Birth Control (114-117)

WEEK 7 (March 21)

Chapter 5 – Assisted Reproduction (119-145)

- A Theological Perspective on Infertility and Assisted Reproduction (120-129)
- Infertility Treatments (129-145)

WEEK 8 (March 28)

Chapter 6 – The Human Embryo (147-168)

- Human Beings, Human Persons and the Image of God (148-152)
- The Biblical Perspective on Prenatal Human Life (152-158)
- The Decisiveness of Fertilization (158-165)
- Implications: Abortion and Embryonic Stem-Cell Research (165-168)

III. THE END OF LIFE

WEEK 9 (April 4)

Chapter 7 – Approaching Death: Dying as a Way of Life (169-193)

- The Christian's Attitude toward Death (171-175)
- Death as Life-Defining (175-184)
- Preparing for Death in Earthly Affairs (184-188)
- Showing Love after Death? The Question of Organ Donation (188-193)

WEEK 10 (April 11)

Dealing with Grief Personally and as a Congregation (not covered in the book)

WEEK 11 (April 18)

Chapter 8 – Suicide, Euthanasia, and the Distinction between Killing and Letting Die (195-212)

- Suicide and Christian Life (197-204)
- Physician-Assisted Suicide (204-206)
- Killing and Letting Die (207-212)

WEEK 12 (April 25)

Chapter 9 – Accepting and Forgoing Treatment (213-238)

- Common Categories (215-216)
- The Significance of Intention (216-218)
- Treatment Decisions and Human Goods (218-226)
- Particular Scenarios (226-238)

Conclusion