



Redesigning the Created Human Being 1: Genesis and Genetics

by John Reschar and Paul Winckler

Theme: Jesus Christ Died for More than my Genes

Focus

This section focuses on God the Creator of our body and soul, and the basics of genetic science in service to His word. Herein, the stage is set to see the wonder of God's created word that brought Adam and Eve and all people from dirt into His family by water, word and faith. We are not a 'genetic machine.' We are created human beings who have a body and soul. Jesus died for more than our genes!

Open with Prayer

I. Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Psalm 139:13-16)

Read Psalm 19:13-16.

View the DVD by Reverend Jim Likens: "God Knew Your name". This can be found on YouTube or purchased from the following website: www.godknewyourname.com.

How does this video show God the creator and mankind the created?

Our identity is more than our physical makeup. How does this video demonstrate that our identity rests in Jesus Christ and not solely in our genes?

II. Letting the Genes Out of the Bottle

Watch the following YouTube video on the basics of genes, the building blocks of our body. You don't need a Ph.D. in genetics to understand the role of genes in heredity.

'23 and Me' is an interactive video on genetics that shows the basics of your genetic makeup and how genes contribute to 'what you see in the mirror':

Part I (4 ½ minutes) : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eOvMNOMRRm8&feature=related>

Part II (2 minutes) : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5raJePXu00Q&feature=related>

Part III (4 minutes) : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjzZ7p-47P8&feature=related>

Part IV (2 minutes) : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHWJqzIH3w&feature=related>

In summary: There are six feet of genetic material in every body cell, i.e. skin, nerve, hair, heart, stomach, white blood cell and so forth. Along this 6 feet of genetic material there are approximately 25,000 genes. Your sex chromosomes, the X or Y, are also located in every body cell. You received 22 chromosomes and one sex chromosome from each parent totaling 46. When an X sex chromosome from the father pairs with the X chromosome from the mother, a girl is conceived. When a Y sex chromosome from the father pairs with the X sex chromosome from the mother, a boy is conceived. When you look in the mirror you can see how God put all of this genetic material within the mystery of creation to make you and all creatures.

III. Christian Identity: Am I All About My Genes?

Sum up each video in your own words regarding the role of genes and making you 'who you are'. How does your summary reflect your baptismal identity?

Some say that your genes are the 'Key to Life', the 'Holy Grail', the 'Design of Your Future'. Reflecting back on Genesis 1 and the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, its explanation, and the video, "God Knew Your Name" how is our identity more than what is found in our genes?

IV. Genetic Science and Living Forever?

We know some of what Genetic science is focused on. Some say that we will eventually be able to live forever as soon as we 'totally understand' how to stop ageing.

Is death something we can overcome through genetic science? Let's take a look at death and how it fits within Christian context versus the secular world.

Read Genesis: 2:15-17, 3:1-19.

Remember, according to the world, death is a natural process. According to the word of God, death is . . . (what say you?). Has sin corrupted our body (including our genes) and soul?

Read Romans 6: what does this say about our death and life in Christ?

How do you think Genetic Science will affect the future of the world? How about your own future? How should a Christian approach these topics in light of Romans 6?

V. Case Study

A friend asks you to respond to the following scenario: "I keep seeing on the Discovery Channel that my identity is all about 'genes'. Since genes give me my looks and other things, that all makes sense to me. What can the Bible tell me about who or whose I am? And, how will that give me direction in my life?"

Study the following passages in relation to your discussion about this case study.

Job 33:4, "The Spirit of God made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

Isaiah 44:24, "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and he whom formed you from the womb."

Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I consecrated you."

Close with Prayer

thESource is published on the Web by LCMS District & Congregational Services—Youth Ministry. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; 1-800-248-1930; www.youthesource.com. Editor: Sherrah Holobaugh Behrens. VOL. 7 NO. 10. November 2010.