



ISSUES

Exploring where The Salvation Army stands on moral and social issues

human genetic engineering

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What is genetic engineering?

It is the process where structure and characteristics of genes are changed. Genes can be added, replaced or taken away in order to help this change.

What are the advantages of genetic engineering?

Simply put, genetic engineering means changing the genetic make-up of a living organism.

What are the disadvantages of genetic engineering?

Genes can be used to produce hormones and proteins. For example, this would help produce insulin which would help people suffering from diabetes.

Gene therapy - cells are worked on in a laboratory and inserted back in the body to cure diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease.

Genetic engineering could also change the genes in the embryo - they could stop children being born with genetic defects such as cystic fibrosis.

It places too much power in the hands of scientists who could use genetic engineering to produce scientifically engineered humans.

Researchers have too little information about the long-term consequences.

It offers the possibility of people needing to be genetically screened before getting life insurance, jobs etc.

Genetic engineering treats the human body as a commodity no different from plants.

