

The Ethics of Human Cloning

Article: The Ethics of Human Cloning: Are we ready?

In 1996, a sheep named Dolly became the first mammal cloned from an adult cell. Since then, the idea of cloning humans has sparked intense global debate. While human cloning remains illegal in most countries, scientific breakthroughs continue to raise questions: if we can clone a human, should we?

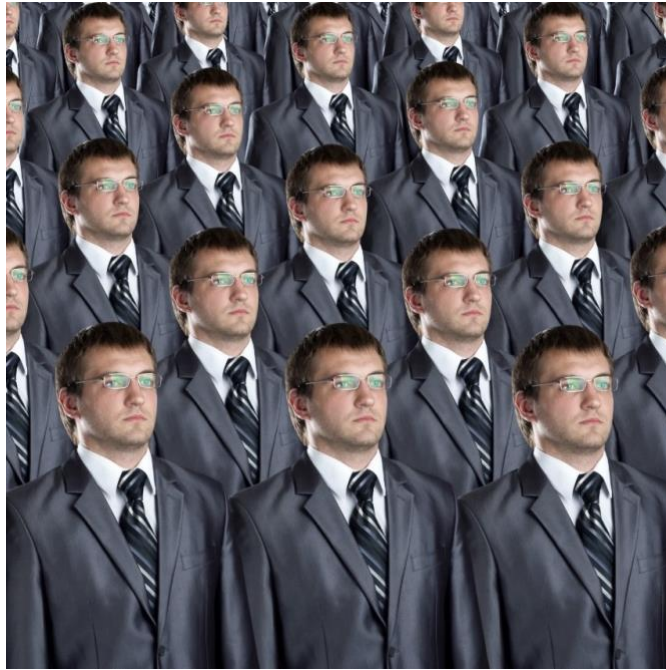
Supporters argue that cloning could help families who cannot have children, or even replace a lost loved one. It might allow doctors to create organs for transplant without the risk of rejection. In theory, it could also lead to advances in understanding genetic diseases.

However, opponents highlight serious ethical concerns. A cloned human may face identity confusion, societal rejection, or pressure to live up to the original person's achievements. There are also concerns about exploitation, as cloning might favour the wealthy or be used for non-medical reasons, such as creating "designer babies."

Another issue is safety. Animal cloning has a high failure rate and often results in health problems. Many scientists believe cloning a human would not only be risky but irresponsible without long-term research.

Even with its potential benefits, human cloning raises deep questions about what it means to be human, the value of individuality, and the limits of science. As technology advances, society must decide not just what we can do, but what we should do.





Vocabulary Practice

Word / Phrase	Definition
Clone	To make an exact copy of a living being using its DNA
Breakthrough	A major discovery that changes the way we think or do something
Transplant	Moving an organ from one body to another
Rejection	When the body refuses to accept a transplanted organ
Ethical	Related to questions of right and wrong
Exploitation	Unfair use of someone or something for one's own benefit
Identity	Who or what a person is; sense of self
Designer baby	A child whose genes are chosen or changed before birth
Individuality	The qualities that make a person different from others
Irresponsible	Not caring about possible harm caused by one's actions

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was Dolly and why is she important in this topic?
2. What are two medical benefits of human cloning mentioned in the article?
3. What ethical concerns do opponents of cloning raise?
4. What does the article say about safety and cloning?
5. Why might a cloned human face identity issues?
6. What does the term “designer baby” mean in this context?
7. According to the article, what should society consider beyond scientific ability?

Discussion Questions

1. Do you think cloning a human should be allowed? Why or why not?
2. Would you feel comfortable meeting a human clone?
3. What differences might a clone have compared to the original person?
4. Should cloning be used to help couples who cannot have children?
5. Is it ethical to clone someone who has died? Why or why not?
6. Do you think cloning will ever become normal in society?
7. Should science have limits? Who should decide those limits?
8. Can we separate scientific progress from moral responsibility?
9. How might cloning affect family structures in the future?