

How well do you know the Catholic faith? Well, let's find out..."

This is a very philosophical question but it should be asked. Why does the Fifth Commandment protect the physical and spiritual integrity of a human being as well?

A) We should not waste our time with this kind of question. They are not important.

B) The right to life and human dignity are two different things.

C) The right to life and to human dignity form a unity; they are inseparably connected to each other. It is possible to put a person to death spiritually also.

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I have a question about medical experiments. ***Can experiments be performed on living embryos and embryonic stem cells?***

A) Yes. The Church doesn't see any problem there.

B) No. Embryos are human beings, because human life begins with the fusion of a sperm cell and an egg. (CCC 2275, 2323) Regarding embryos as biological material, "producing" them and then "using" their stem cells for purposes of research is absolutely immoral and falls under the commandment "you shall not kill". Research on adult stem cells is a different matter, since they cannot develop into human being. Medical interventions on an embryo are justifiable only if they are made with the intention of healing, if the life and unimpaired development of the child are assured, and if the risk involved are not disproportionately great.

C) Pope Francis asks a similar question and the Church is looking for the answer. We do not have it yet at this moment.

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