

**Theological Principles to guide responses to developments in the technologies relating to human embryology and early human life**

- i. The belief that human beings are created in the image of God;
- ii. Understanding that to be created in the image of God is to participate in relationship with the trinitarian (relational) God;
- iii. Respecting creation which is grounded in the overflowing love of God;
- iv. Recognising that human beings are stewards of creation;
- v. Understanding that, as stewards of creation, human beings participate in God's creative work.
- vi. Respecting the 'otherness' (distinctiveness) of every human life;
- vii. Enabling authentic relationships with God and others, authentic relationships being those which are grounded in self-giving love;
- viii. Receiving children as gifted by God;
- ix. Being motivated by unconditional and generous love (not by self-interest) when receiving children;
- x. Ensuring that human beings are given the opportunity to fulfil their own full potential in terms of their relationship with God and with others;
- xi. Holding to the Christian vision of renewed and restored harmony and authentic relationships;
- xii. Understanding the parent-child relationship as one in which:
  - a. The otherness in relation of each is respected
  - b. Growth in relationship with God within the community of faith is enabled;
- xiii. Offering pastoral care which 'walks the tightrope' of justice and joy and challenge and choice.

From 'Created in God's Image'

(Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Traditions 2008)

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=opentogod.content&cmid=2366>

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