

A New Aspect in In-Vitro Fertilisation

The recent request of a woman to be impregnated with the sperm of her deceased husband has given a new twist to the question of in vitro fertilisation. Objections to IVF had been the tremendous wastage of fertilised ova in laboratories (which is murder), and the intrusion of a third partner into the marriage relationship by a known or an unknown donor (equivalent to adultery). There are two views that Christians will be expected to take on this recent question. One is that such manipulation is outside God's arrangement. The death of the husband has released the woman from the law that bound her to her husband, and this proposal to have a child from his sperm seems to go against God's design. The other objection is the deliberate decision to bring a child into the world in a one-parent situation. This should not be understood as an attempt to denigrate the situations that God has permitted, where a widow brings up a child in a one-parent family when the child has been conceived while both father and mother were alive.