



## Apologetics and Bioethics

David Cook

### **Apologetics and Bioethics** § Challenges from bioethics § Genetic knowledge

- § Human genome
- § Genes and disease
- § Somatic cell and germ line
- § Cloning technologies
- § Stem cell research
- § Gene manipulation
- § Gene replacement
- § Xenotransplantation

### § Underlying challenges § What is human?

- § View of disease
- § View of life and death
- § Reductionism
- § Determinism
- § Research funding
- § Public perception of genetics
- § Playing god

### § Social challenges § Confidentiality

- § Using genetic information – abortion
- § Gene selection – discrimination
- § Abnormality
- § Social / religious responses – Tay-Sachs (Jews), thalassimia (Cypriots)

### § Ethical and theological responses § Freedom not determinism

- § Holism not reductionism
- § Limits of science
- § Protecting humanity / the vulnerable
- § Genetic variety
- § Truth telling
- § God the creator
- § Fall and created order
- § Law – public health

- § Law and prophets – care for vulnerable
- § Example of Jesus – incarnation
- § Example of Jesus – cure / care for vulnerable / diseased
- § Fulfilment – eschaton

### Questions

How can we understand genetic advances?

How can we see what is being presupposed?

How can we bring values to bear?

How can we build common ground?

How can we restrain evil?

How can we show the values of Christ?