

Based on "Case Study: Fetal Abnormality" and other required topic study materials, write a 750-1,000-word reflection that answers the following questions:

1. What is the Christian view of the nature of human persons, and which theory of moral status is it compatible with? How is this related to the intrinsic human value and dignity?
2. Which theory or theories are being used by Jessica, Marco, Maria, and Dr. Wilson to determine the moral status of the fetus? What from the case study specifically leads you to believe that they hold the theory you selected?
3. How does the theory determine or influence each of their recommendations for action?
4. What theory do you agree with? Why? How would that theory determine or influence the recommendation for action?

Case Study - Fetal Abnormality

Human dignity refers to the intrinsic and absolute value of the human person for the mere fact that he or she is a person, and not because of his or her race, religion, achievements, age, health, or any other characteristic. We should treat all human beings as persons who possess the same gift of freedom that we ourselves possess, and not as things to be used. The Bible also teaches us that the human person is a unity of body and soul: "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

If indeed the body is substantially united to the soul, then the body shares in the dignity of the soul and of the image of God. This means that *the way God has created the human body has moral importance*, because it is a good that should be respected and promoted. We can say that the way God has created the bodies of man and woman is his first message to us as to the way they ought to behave.

The Bible, reason and experience also teach us that man and woman are equal in dignity, yet different and complementary. Man and woman complement each other spiritually, psychologically and physically – especially in the conjugal act.

Fetal Abnormality Case Study

The advancement of medical technology has made it possible to detect medical abnormalities while a child is still a fetus and can create difficult choices for parents to make if severe anomalies are discovered. There are many theories regarding the moral status of the fetus that can be applied when deciding how to proceed if these abnormalities are detected. In the fetal abnormality case study, Jessica, Marco, Maria, and Dr. Wilson each have varying opinions on what course of action to take based on these different theories of moral status. Jessica is torn between her desire to be financially independent and her belief that all life has value. Her belief is what Sebo (n.d.) describes as moral status based on

Maria is absolutely opposed to any mention of termination. She views the moral status of the fetus based on Jessica's responsibility as a mother, or the theory of moral agency based on relationships (GCU,