

## **Sperm and Eggs in Consideration of Money: A Pound of Flesh for Three Thousand Ducats?**

Donor conception is a practice in which a donor sperm or egg is used to conceive a child. Usually, the donor sperm or egg is procured in a financial transaction: gametes exchanging hands for money. The “donor” in donor conception is a bit of an oxymoron, for a donation it is not when money—and sometimes big money—is a feature of the practice, not a bug. What’s a Christian lawyer to think of this? Is donor conception proper to the nature of human beings, being embodied beings in the image of God? Does it satisfy the requirement of justice? Is it conducive to human flourishing and love of neighbor?

### **Outline of Presentation:**

- Eli Baden-Lasar—and Some Half-Siblings
- What Donor Conception Entails
- Nature of Man: Embodied Beings Made in the Image of God
  - Embodiment and Genealogical Bewilderment
  - *Imago Dei*
  - *Quid Pro Quo*, Consideration, and Commutative Justice
- Some Counter-Arguments Considered
- Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*
- Flourishing and Love of Neighbor