3.17: Inherited Power: Progress or Problem?

Directions: Read each scenario below carefully. Then decide if we should allow that scenario or not. Explain your answer.



A scientist discovers how to give people better memory and faster reflexes using a CRISPR treatment. But there's a catch: the change only works for that person—it can't be passed down to their kids. Anyone who wants the powers has to get the treatment themselves.

Questions to Consider:

Is this fair if everyone has access?

Should there be limits on how these powers are used?

What if someone uses their powers to get ahead in sports or school?

Scenario 2: Inheritable Super Speed

Now imagine another CRISPR treatment that **gives people super speed—and it's passed down to their children**. That means families with this trait will keep getting faster generation after generation. Some kids are born with it, and others never will be.

Questions to Consider:

Should people be allowed to pass on enhanced traits?

Would it be fair in sports or jobs if some families always had an advantage?

Should schools or teams separate enhanced and non-enhanced kids?

Scenario 3: The Power Paywall

A private company starts selling a CRISPR treatment that **boosts intelligence and energy**, but it costs **\$2 million**. Only the richest families can afford it, and their kids are now outperforming everyone else. These abilities are **passed down**, too, giving those families an even bigger head start every generation.

Questions to Consider:

Is it fair that only wealthy people get access to these powers?

What might happen to society over time if this continues?

Should there be rules to make gene editing available to everyone, or to stop this kind of enhancement altogether?

Wrap-Up Reflection: Now think about this:
What if powers were both inherited and expensive ?
Would society become more unfair over time?
Or is it okay if people pay for what they want?

Are there any **red lines** you'd draw to keep the future fair?