

# Euthanasia

Job 1:20-21

Introduction: George, age 26, was paralyzed from the neck down due to a motorcycle accident. He no longer wanted to live so he begged his brother to kill him. Lester complied with a shotgun at short range.

A doctor's 78-year-old mother was dying from a slow and painful condition. She asked to be put out of her misery. The doctor granted her request.

An elderly couple decides they no longer want to live due to their uncomfortable declining physical health. They overdosed on sleeping pills together.

A loved one is in a coma with little hope of regaining consciousness. The spouse requests all life support be terminated. The courts grant the request.

Euthanasia is a transliterated Greek word meaning an easy death. It is used to describe mercy killing. It is the act of killing someone who is sick or injured for reasons of mercy. We are told to be merciful (Luke 6:36), so is it wrong to kill those who desire death due to their misery?

I. For most people, death is not the easy way out.

A. Death is the enemy (1 Cor. 15:25-26). Death is not a friend.

B. Death should be feared by all sinners (Heb. 2:14-15).

C. The only exception is for those who have been released from the bondage of death (2 Tim. 1:10). Life and immortality is possible through the gospel.

1. Paul preferred death (Phil. 1:21-23).

2. If we are prepared to die, death is a blessing (2 Cor. 5:1-8).

However, most people are unprepared for death.

II. Murder is sin (Jas. 2:10-11).

A. We cannot take another person's life and expect to go to heaven.

1. Except, in service to civil government (Rom. 13:1-5).

2. That would include police, soldiers, executioners, etc.

3. Doctors not included.

B. We cannot take our own life.

C. Judgments whether life is meaningful, useless, or worthless are irrelevant.

1. Such arguments are used to justify abortion and suicide.

2. Who knows if a life taken could have had a greater purpose than we can see with our finite knowledge?

III. What about situations where there is no hope of survival?

A. Presented with terminal cancer, would it be wrong to forego chemotherapy and radiation if it were able to prolong our life? Could we withhold medical treatment to facilitate a quicker death? Could we starve a person to death who is in a coma? Could we sign a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order?

B. The answer to these questions is whether we are causing death (murder).

1. If I refuse to feed a debilitated person even if that person was in a coma, would I be causing death? I think so.

2. If I suffer from stokes and I sign a DNR, am I or the doctor causing death? I think not.

3. If I'm brain dead (debatable) and the doctors unplug the machines that are keeping my body alive, did they cause my death? I think not.

C. If I'm causing death then I'm committing murder (exception previously noted).

1. If God is taking my life through an illness or accident, I'm not causing my death. My death may come quicker depending on my decisions, but I didn't cause my death. Likewise, if you gave someone the coronavirus and he died, you did not cause his death!

2. My uncle facilitated his death by accepting chemotherapy when he reasonably expected 6 months to live but died 2 weeks after treatment began. Did he cause his death?

D. Unfortunately, it means we may have to watch a loved one die a slow and painful death. We all hate to see loved ones suffer but it might be for the best (Rom. 8:26-28).

Conclusion: There was a good man long ago who was suffering a terrible death. No one there seemed to care. A few were inclined to relieve his misery (Matt. 27:48-49). Yet, our Lord and Savior died a slow and painful death. Sad to say, it was the best thing that ever happened for any of us.

Just as soon as we try to determine who should live or who should die because we want relief, we will likely end up frustrating God's purposes and may jeopardize our own soul (Matt. 16:21-23).

Most people die unprepared for death. Euthanasia may alleviate their suffering on earth, but it expedites their eternal suffering in torment.

If you need God's forgiveness of your sins, please don't let His death mean nothing to you by forsaking the only way to save your soul...