

**I. Introduction: Do those who are suffering have the right to die?**

**II. Which is more important: The sanctity of life or the quality of life?**

**A. God is sovereign over human life, which is sacred because we are created in His image. Ps. 8:4-5 Gen. 1:27 2:7**

- 1. Suffering and death are the result of the Fall. Ro. 5:12 I Cor. 15:26**
- 2. God alone has the right to give and take life. Deut. 32:39 Ps. 31:15 Heb. 9:27**
- 3. God places special protection over human life. Gen. 9:5-6 Ezek. 22:1f Hab. 1**
- 4. God especially cares for those who are weak and helpless. Ps. 72:12-14 146:9 139:13-16 Pr. 31:8-9 Js. 1:27 Dt. 14:29 Is. 1:17 Lev. 19:14**
- 5. We don't have the right to unjustly take the lives of others. Ex. 20:13**
- 6. Nor do we have a right to take our own lives, even to avoid suffering. Mt. 27:5 Jud. 9:54-57 I Sa. 31:3-6 II Sa. 1:9-17 17:23 I Ki. 16:15-19 Acts 1:18 I Co. 6:19-20**
- 7. God sometimes allows suffering for His good purpose. Rom. 8:18 II Cor. 4:16-18**

**B. People in our day are playing God and killing those who, in their view, don't have sufficient quality of life. Judges 21:25 Col. 2:8**

- 1. Rather than valuing all human life, the secular elite have redefined the issue as quality of life, claiming some life is not worth living.**
- 2. The acceptance of the practice of abortion has led to euthanasia.**
- 3. Some demand the right to choose to die.**
- 4. Many seek the right to make life and death decisions for others.**
- 5. There are "choices" and "rights" which belong to God alone.**

**C. There are also many practical problems with giving people the right to die (and kill).**

- 1. Those who say when healthy, *I wouldn't want to live like that*, may change their minds when faced with the choice between a hard life or no life at all.**
- 2. Those who are depressed may make rash, unwise decisions. Prov. 29:20**
- 3. Those who say they would rather die than to continue living in a state of pain or disability, may have no idea of what their state will be after death. Ecc. 5:2**
- 4. Doctors are sometimes wrong. "Hopeless" cases sometimes experience recovery.**

**D. The rejection of the sanctity of human life puts us all at risk.**

- 1. A time may come when you won't be allowed to choose to receive certain care.**
- 2. The helpless among us are in grave danger when we use quality of life as the criteria for which people we will value and protect: elderly, disabled, unwanted.**

**III. Will you stand up for the sanctity of human life?**

**A. You may have to make some tough healthcare decisions for yourself and others.**

- 1. Base your decisions upon the Word of God. Pr. 3:5-6 II Co. 12:7f Mt. 7:12**
- 2. Differentiate between medical (scientific) issues and ethical (spiritual) issues.**
- 3. When is someone dead? Gen. 6:17 25:8,17 35:29 49:33 Mk. 15:17**
- 4. What is the difference between sustaining life and prolonging death? Isa. 32:6**
- 5. Must all possible care be given under every circumstance?**
- 6. Those who are dying should be kept as comfortable as possible. Prov. 31:6-7**
- 7. Seek godly counsel when facing difficult decisions. Pr. 15:22**
- 8. We will have to make difficult decisions based upon incomplete information. Only God is all knowing. He will help you. I Cor. 10:13**
- 9. If you are unsure, err on the side of life.**

- B. Prepare in advance for difficult healthcare decisions. Prov. 21:5**
1. Be very wary about signing documents which could empower a doctor or a court to wrongfully terminate your life by withholding care.
  2. Carefully evaluate any advice you may receive from the medical profession.
  3. Formulate your wishes biblically and communicate them to your loved ones.  
*Advance Directive for Health Care* by the Christian Medical & Dental Association
  4. Give written authority to someone whom you trust to make medical decisions for you, if you are incapacitated.
- C. Will you honor all human life? Lev. 19:14**
1. Will you care for your parents in their old age, even if their needs are great?  
Exodus 20:12 Pr. 16:31 Ps. 71:9
  2. Will you remain faithful to your marriage vows, *for better or for worse, in sickness and in health... until death parts us* even if it involves sacrifice? Ro. 7:2-3 Ge. 2:24
  3. How will you respond if God gives you a baby (or grandchild) with birth defects?
  4. Are you willing to share the burden with your brothers and sisters who care for disabled family members? Luke 10:25-37
- D. Pray for our nation which is embracing a culture of death, and inviting Divine judgment. Ezek. 22 Hab. 1:2**
- E. Do what you can to promote the sanctity of human life. Prov. 31:8-9**

#### IV. Concluding applications.

- A. Are you prepared to face the inescapable realities of dying and death? Rom. 5:12  
Heb. 9:27 Ecc. 3:1-2**
1. Are you prepared to face the dying and death of those whom you love?
  2. Have you prepared those you will leave behind for your dying and death?  
Mt. 7:12 Pr. 21:5
  3. Are you prepared to die?
    - a. Your last breath in this world is not the end of your existence. After death comes judgment. Heb. 9:27 Ps. 90:12 Rom. 5:12 3:23 6:23
    - b. Jesus takes away the sting of death for all who believe in Him. I Co. 15:22,55f
- B. What happens to a Christian when he (she) dies? Phil. 1:21 II Cor. 5:8 Luke 23:43**
1. Your soul is immediately in the presence of Christ.
  2. Your body awaits the resurrection at Christ's return. I Cor. 15:51f I Th. 4:13f
  3. In that day there will be no more suffering, pain and death. Rev. 21:4 *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.*

#### Discussion questions

1. Why do Christians value all human life?
2. What is wrong with giving the right to commit suicide to those who suffer ?
3. What are some dangerous implications of denying full personhood to certain individuals?
4. What would you want done if you were incapacitated?  
What have you done to ensure your instructions are followed?
5. What happens to a Christian after he or she dies?
6. What can you do to honor life?
7. Are you prepared to make sacrifices to care for a disabled spouse, parent, or child?
8. Are you prepared to die?