

EUTHANASIA

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; 8:8

INTRO: Euthanasia is a fancy name for what is otherwise called "mercy killing." I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet, but I wrote an article in 1972 on the subject of abortion, several months before the U.S. Supreme Court struck down all laws protecting unborn humans. Near the end of that article, I wrote: "Many informed individuals see permissive abortion laws as the first step toward a society in which euthanasia (mercy-killings) will be socially & legally acceptable. Attempts to justify abortion often employ arguments that the aborted babies would have been unwanted, battered children, perhaps deformed or deranged, & eventually candidates for the welfare rolls. It is reasoned that they should be put to death for their own benefit, & for the convenience of society. The next step after abortion has become socially acceptable might well be to systematically "put to sleep" the aged, the infirm, the mental patient, the deformed and diseased, then the unskilled, & who-knows-who might be next."

We, as a society, are fast approaching that point.

I. LIFE & DEATH ARE GOD'S PREROGATIVES.

READ JOB 1:18-21

The Lord kills & makes alive; He brings down to the grave & brings up. (1 Sam. 2:6).

II. SUICIDE IS SINFUL. God does not desire that anyone take his own life. Violates every passage that tells us not to kill. Granted, some are not accountable. But the practice is contrary to the will of God.

For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal..." are all summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Romans 13:9).

A. The Philippian jailer. Acts 16:27-28. "Harm" is a euphemism for death. Paul, in effect told him, "Don't kill yourself." We use many euphemisms for death: "pass away," "if anything happens to me." Bible uses "shed blood."

- B. Both Job & Elijah despaired of life & longed for death, but apparently neither of them ever contemplated suicide.

III. "ASSISTED SUICIDE" IS MURDER.

- A. King David considered it so. READ 2 SAMUEL 1:4-16
- B. The case of Abimelech. READ JUDGES 9:53-56.

NOTE: The armor bearer considered his act an act of mercy, but the inspired writer considered it an act of retribution for Abimilech's crimes.

IV. SO CALLED "MERCY KILLING" IS SINFUL.

Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent & righteous. For I will not justify the wicked. (Exodus 23:7).

Cursed is the one who takes a bribe (KJV, reward) to slay an innocent person. (Deut. 27:25).

The Lord hates... hands that shed innocent blood... (Prov 6:17)

V. EUTHANASIA IS BASED ON THREE ERRORS:

- A. That death "ends it all." Heb. 9:27; Luke 16:19-31
- B. That man is just another animal among animals.
- C. Man's audacity to think he can be wiser or more merciful than God.

NOTE: If Jack Kavorkian were anything besides a medical doctor, he could not continue to get away with murder. If he were an auto mechanic, attaching a hose to the exhaust pipe to kill people with carbon monoxide, he would be languishing in prison right now. If he were a carpenter killing people with a hammer or a 2X4, he would be in prison, probably on death row where he belongs. What makes anyone think a medical doctor has any more right to kill innocent human beings than a carpenter or an auto mechanic?

VI. SOME RELATED MATTERS:

- A. We may have the option of various treatments--or of no treatment at all, letting nature take its course. Pull the plug--or never plug it in, in the first place.

B. Use of wine [or whiskey or morphine] to ease the pain when death is imminent is within the scope of what God has authorized.

READ PROVERBS 31:5-6

CONCLUSION: For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Romans 8:18).

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, January 26, 1997

Wrightsville, PA, March 16, 1997

La Porte, TX, April 1, 1997 (meeting)

Westview, Athens, AL, April 14, 1997 (meeting)

Wonsley Drive, Austin, TX, April 8, 1998 (meeting)