

Euthanasia

“My view on euthanasia has changed”, a christian lady enthused. Apparently after watching someone terminally ill suffer she changed her view in favour of taking life. *Prov 18:14 The spirit of a man can endure his own sickness, But as for a broken spirit who can bear it?*

It weakens Christianity when we start to support issues for emotional reasons instead of what the word of God says. This has also happened with gay marriage as many christians succumb to the rights, equality agenda, flying in the face of the Words instructions. Did not Eve ask, “did God really say?” Will we be disciples who walk as Yeshua (Jesus) walked (1 Jn 2:6) or disciples of this world?

What is euthanasia?

From the greek language Euthanasia means ‘good death’ or ‘gentle and easy death’ Throughout history the withdrawal or withholding of treatment has been practiced and was called orthothanasia, meaning ‘passive death’. Civilisations who placed a low value on human life were familiar with and practiced euthanasia.

Euthanasia is defined as ‘The practice of intentionally ending life to relieve pain and suffering’ (Wikipedia) Whilst someone ill has the option to take their own life if they are still well enough to do so, euthanasia requires that the authorities or somebody else do it for them.

Is it right and just to require someone else to be the one who has to play God and take a human life?

We are made in the image of God, to murder is to snuff out the image of God.

It also causes blood to cease flowing that contains life.

Lev 17:11 ‘For the life of the flesh is in the blood.....’

Gen 9:6 ‘whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man’

Life in the blood of the image of God

Two reasons are sighted here for not taking life:-

The life of the flesh is in the blood.

We kill life and the image of God in that person

This raises the question, “is euthanasia murder” ?. What gets legislated and given the name euthanasia will make little difference on judgement day if Father God sees it as murder.

As Christians, if we have supported euthanasia and God sees it as murder, where will that leave us standing on judgement day?

Ending pain and suffering

Pain suffered during illness gets cited as a reason to take life to relieve the pain.

The scripture above tells us man's spirit can endure his own pain. Modern medicine is also equipped to help man endure pain. Once a terminal illness can no longer be treated, pain management would be administered when required to keep the person comfortable.

Dying with dignity

Dying with dignity becomes a catch cry for euthanasia advocates. Does someone who endures their pain and takes pain medication if needed not die with dignity?

Is there an underlying belief here that to die naturally of an illness is to die without dignity.

Having watched a parent die with bowel cancer and endure her sickness with real dignity there was certainly nothing undignified about her death. Perhaps the faith she practised knowing anything that came her way her God would see her through made the difference.

To be terminally ill and be without hope and without the God of all hope must be frightening.

Defining dignity

Dignity is defined as: 'in classic moral, ethical, and political discussions the concept of dignity expresses the idea that a being has the right to be valued and respected, and to be treated ethically'

Dignity requires value

Whilst dignity requires being valued does a terminally ill person have no value?

Are they still not someone's treasured father, mother, brother, sister friend etc.

It appears it hinges on the individual's personal desires. If a loved one desires to be euthanized are they giving their own life value?.

Quality of life features in the equation as a person considers their life quality not worth maintaining. Their life has no value, the very thing that dying with dignity requires.

Legalising euthanasia

According to an ABC news report in November 2017 the Australian state of Victoria was the first state in the country to legalise assisted dying for the terminally ill, with MP's voting to give patients the right to request a lethal drug to end their suffering from mid 2019.

Victoria brought abortion reform in 2008 allowing for abortion after 24 weeks with medical profession approval.

In 2009 the state had fires that destroyed 450,000 hectares of land, destroyed 3,500 buildings including 2029 homes. 173 people died and 414 were injured.

Could there be a connection when Governments bring in legislation and there is a disaster not long after. Could it be the hand of God? We cannot know for sure but it is an interesting question.

Assisted dying or assisted suicide?

Assisted dying or assisted suicide, which is it?

Wikipedia defines assisted dying:- Assisted suicide is suicide committed with the aid of another person, sometimes a physician, the term is often used interchangeably with physician assisted suicide, which involves a doctor 'knowingly'.

Psalm 116:15 'Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His godly ones'

Yahweh has a different take on death *'Precious in the sight of the LORD'*

He obviously delights in having us with Him but that requires death.

While those in the world will go their own way making decisions that seem best in their own eyes, we as believers have a higher order to follow. It's the way of Holiness, righteousness and obedience.

Trusting the Word

The counsel of His word is clear:-

Don't take life

Don't mess with the image of God

King David said

'Your eyes saw my substance, being yet formed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them'

Psalm 139:16

David understood his days were fashioned for him and written down.

How can we interfere with the days our God has fashioned for us?

Euthanasia is not an option for a believer. Supporting an unbeliever to take their own life is not an option either.

God must be the sole determiner of the days of a man's life. It is not for us to play God no matter how bad the suffering we witness, or experience. Leave that to the experts in the medical profession who are trained to deal with it.

The beginning of *Job 14:5* reads *'Since his days are determined, The number of his months is with You;....'*

God has determined our days and our months. It all rests with Him.

Let us trust our wonderful, amazing God and be like Job and David understanding our days and months are determined, fashioned and recorded for us. He knows the number of them.

He walks with us until our days are fulfilled.