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## EUTHANASIA

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Job 33:4

### **INTRODUCTION**

Former governor of Colorado Richard Lamm once said that elderly people who are terminally ill “have a duty to die...” Sadly, Lamm’s perspective is gaining momentum in our country! The issues surrounding end-of-life medical decisions will likely become more complex and controversial as medical technology continues to develop. As Christians, we must not devalue the sanctity-of-life principle which teaches that humans are created in God’s image and for His glory!

### **I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- A. Debates regarding the \_\_\_\_\_ of euthanasia in general and physician-assisted suicide in particular date from ancient \_\_\_\_\_ and Rome.
- B. In \_\_\_\_\_ an American dentist, William Morton, publicly demonstrated the use of inhaled ether as a \_\_\_\_\_ anesthetic.
- C. In 1870, Samuel William first proposed using ether and morphine to intentionally \_\_\_\_\_ a patient’s \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Over the following 35 \_\_\_\_\_, passionate discussions regarding euthanasia raged in the United States.
- D. In 1906 a bill to \_\_\_\_\_ euthanasia was defeated in \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. In 1938 the Euthanasia Society of America was \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States by Rev. Charles Potter, to \_\_\_\_\_ for assisted suicide.
- F. Several major \_\_\_\_\_ have dealt with euthanasia, including:
  - The Karen Ann Quinlan case – \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Terri Schiavo cases – 1990 – \_\_\_\_\_
- G. In \_\_\_\_\_ the Hemlock Society’s founder, Derek Humphrey, published a best-selling book, “Final \_\_\_\_\_: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying.”

- H. There is a long \_\_\_\_\_ going back to the Fifth Commandment (“Thou shalt not kill”) and the Hippocratic \_\_\_\_\_ that dissuades doctors from assisting in suicide.
- I. Euthanasia is an “\_\_\_\_\_” term referring to all kinds of aid in dying:
- The word derives from classical Greek and means “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  - However, the “good death” is a \_\_\_\_\_ in terms!
  - Death is the ultimate indignity, coming as a \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and the fall of man – Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; 6:23

## II. **BURNING ISSUES**

- A. Is euthanasia morally and Biblically \_\_\_\_\_?
1. \_\_\_\_\_, as defined as: An act that intentionally and directly \_\_\_\_\_ a patient’s death!
    - a. Physician-\_\_\_\_\_ Suicide –
      - The physician’s role is normally to \_\_\_\_\_ a medical means by which a patient can take their life, and \_\_\_\_\_ to do so.
      - This is generally done through a \_\_\_\_\_ for a lethal dose of medication.
      - Most of the \_\_\_\_\_ initiatives that have arisen in various states have attempted to \_\_\_\_\_ Physician-Assisted Suicide (PSA).
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_ Euthanasia –
      - Sometimes called “mercy \_\_\_\_\_,” it refers to the direct and \_\_\_\_\_ efforts of a physician or other medical professional to \_\_\_\_\_ a patient die.
      - In active euthanasia, the patient is actually \_\_\_\_\_ by the direct \_\_\_\_\_ of the physician.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_, as defined as: An act of \_\_\_\_\_ artificial life-sustaining means from a terminally ill patient or hastening death through treatments aimed at \_\_\_\_\_ symptoms:

- If these acts are with the informed \_\_\_\_\_ of the patient...
  - And if the purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_ the patient or allow the \_\_\_\_\_ dying process to continue.
- B. Those in \_\_\_\_\_ of Physician-Assisted Suicide or Active Euthanasia offer the following justifications:
1. It's my \_\_\_\_\_, I can do with it want I choose!
    - a. There are things that a person \_\_\_\_\_ legally do with their body, such as ingesting illegal \_\_\_\_\_ or to use it for prostitution!
    - b. In addition to Biblical prohibitions, there are \_\_\_\_\_ and moral reasons \_\_\_\_\_ euthanasia!
  2. Euthanasia is an \_\_\_\_\_ of mercy!
    - a. Since when does \_\_\_\_\_ an innocent human being constitute \_\_\_\_\_?
    - b. Medical \_\_\_\_\_ can alleviate \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of physical pain:
      - Admittedly there remains a few cases where \_\_\_\_\_ is difficult to control.
      - We must recognize that \_\_\_\_\_ is, on occasion, part of God's plan and \_\_\_\_\_ in life.
  3. Euthanasia relieves my family of a \_\_\_\_\_ burden!
    - a. Money is not more \_\_\_\_\_ than life!
    - b. The reality is that every dependent \_\_\_\_\_ is a financial \_\_\_\_\_!
- C. How did euthanasia become such an \_\_\_\_\_ practice?
1. It all starts with \_\_\_\_\_!
    - If human beings evolved from animals, rather than being \_\_\_\_\_ by God, then the sanctity of \_\_\_\_\_ is diminished!
  2. It escalates to \_\_\_\_\_!

- If human babies can be \_\_\_\_\_ in a mother's womb, then why not the \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Joseph Fletcher, the father of modern situational ethics said it best:  
"Abortion is \_\_\_\_\_ euthanasia, and euthanasia is \_\_\_\_\_ infanticide!"
  - They have the same \_\_\_\_\_ (a human being) ...
  - They have the same \_\_\_\_\_ (unwanted)...
  - They have the same \_\_\_\_\_ (death)!
3. It \_\_\_\_\_ with euthanasia!
- According to a report in the New England Journal of \_\_\_\_\_, euthanasia is happening in our hospitals right now. The report claims that 20 percent of \_\_\_\_\_ intensive care nurses \_\_\_\_\_ having deliberately hastened the \_\_\_\_\_ of a patient.  
--"Seeking a Better Way to Die" by John Horgan

### **III. BIBLICAL INSIGHT**

- A. God's Word is clear that every time a person is \_\_\_\_\_ euthanized, that act is an act called \_\_\_\_\_ – Exodus 20:13; Romans 13:9
- B. Only \_\_\_\_\_ has the right to take \_\_\_\_\_ – Job 1:21
- C. There are two occasions in Scripture when euthanasia occurred on a \_\_\_\_\_:
1. By Pharaoh – \_\_\_\_\_ 1:16,22
  2. By Herod – \_\_\_\_\_ 2:13-16
- D. Rather than \_\_\_\_\_ the elderly or unwanted, God charges His people to lovingly \_\_\_\_\_ for them:
1. \_\_\_\_\_ one's father and mother – Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ to the fatherless and widows – James 1:27
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ the burdens of those who are struggling in life – Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:2

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## Lesson 10: Euthanasia

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ the elderly – Leviticus 19:32
5. \_\_\_\_\_ from shedding innocent blood – Proverbs 6:16,17
6. \_\_\_\_\_ “the golden rule” – Matthew 7:12

Where does this trend to legalize euthanasia leave us? Many in our country are suppressing the truth. Instead of admitting that we should love and care for those who are dying, proponents spin euthanasia in a positive light to cover up their unwillingness to do the hard, and often inconvenient, work of love. That attitude has naturally followed from legalized abortion. Instead of asking pregnant women to love their babies by bringing them to term (when parenthood or adoption could take place), proponents of abortion cover up their deed and sacrifice children on the altar of convenience.     --*Norman Geisler and Frank Turek*