

The Right to Die or the Responsibility to Live?

Introduction:

- Brittany Maynard ended her life on Nov 1, 2014 complying with the state of Oregon's Death with D_____ Act.
 1. No one wants to s_____ in death!
 2. But is it a human r_____ to choose to end one's life to escape a horrible death?
- Issues of life and death cannot be resolved by emotion or even reason alone but by the C_____ of life.

Principle #1 – All Human Life is S_____

- The Bible forbids us to take a human life out of r_____ (Rom 12:19)
 1. The penalty for murder was d_____ (Gen 9:6)
 2. Death penalties were to be inflicted by society not by an individual (e.g. – s_____)
- The Bible expects us to r_____ human life
 1. Ex 21:22,23 was a law in Israel's society penalizing those who c_____ endangered human life
 2. In our society, involuntary manslaughter can carry a prison term of up to _____ years.
 3. In the case of Brittany Maynard, were the physicians who gave the barbituate guilty of not holding her life as sacred?
- What does the Bible say about purposely ending one's life?
 1. It is honorable if it is to s_____ another's life (Jn 15:13)
 2. It is unacceptable if it is for s_____ reasons (see Phil 1:21-26)

Principle #2 – The Lord is S_____

- God is the Lord of life and death
 1. Only God can c_____ life (we can only reproduce it)
 2. Jesus was given the keys of d_____ and Hades because He defeated death by rising from the dead (Rev 1:18)
 3. God's plan is to save people from e_____ tribe, tongue, nation, and class (Rev 5:9,10)
 - a. The saved will escape the power of d_____
 - b. The saved will live in r_____ to Him
- How can God be in control when people make wrong decisions?
 1. Being in control does not mean controlling e_____ decision
 2. Being in control means that w_____ decisions cannot overthrow God's plan
- God gives e_____ meaning to life even in the face of horrible conditions
 1. Many derive meaning of life from their j_____ (see Acts 16:22-34)
 2. Others derive meaning of life from temporary things like finances, h_____, abilities (suicidal thoughts happen when these are in jeopardy)
 3. We must derive meaning to life from our r_____ to Christ (Jn 10:10)
- Can a person live a meaningful life:
 1. In the face of a terminal illness? (2 Kgs 20:1-6)
 2. While suffering an awful death? (Lk 23:43)

Principle #3 – Life’s Purpose is S_____

- God uses unbelievers to accomplish His overall p_____
 1. He used the Pharaoh of Egypt to make His n_____ known to all the other nations (Ex 4:21-23; 9:16)
 2. He used J_____ the betrayer, and Pilate the governor to bring about Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins!
- How about those in a state of “no quality” of life? - We must distinguish between v_____ & involuntary responses.
 1. When a person is incapable of meeting their own need of food, water, clothing, shelter, we m_____ provide it (Matt 25:34-37)
 2. When involuntary responses such as breathing, blinking, heart beat, etc. become non-functional we are NOT responsible for sustaining them (although it is okay to provide temporary relief)
 3. Can a person with “no quality of life” still serve God in this state?

Conclusion:

- There is no right to die, but the responsibility to live in relationship to the Lord, serving His purposes.