



Seeing What We
believe

1 Jn. 5:13

1 Jn. 5:13 **These things have I written unto you** that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life...**

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1

NAME AND PURPOSE

ARTICLE 2

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH

- (A) The Holy Scriptures.**
- (B) Dispensationalism.**
- (C) The Godhead.**
- (D) The Person and Work of Christ.**
- (E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**
- (F) The Depravity of Man.**
- (G) Salvation.**
- (H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**
- (I) The Church**
- (J) Separation.**
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- (L) The Eternal State.**
- (M) The Personality of Satan.**
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- (P) Human Sexuality**
- (Q) Family Relationships**
- (R) Divorce and remarriage.**
- (S) Abortion**

Last week's doctrinal topic was "Abortion" and has much in common with this week's topic – Euthanasia. By definition:

euthanasia

Also called mercy killing, it is the act of putting to death painlessly or allowing to die, as by withholding extreme medical measures, a person or animal suffering from an incurable, especially a painful, disease or condition – painless death.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/euthanasia>

Our doctrinal statement is as follows:

(T) **Euthanasia**. We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (Ex. 20:13, 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

“We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention.”

As always...

- All doctrinal beliefs MUST begin with the Word of God = what does the Bible say?

Ex. 20:13 **Thou shalt not kill.**

Mt. 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, **Thou shalt not kill**; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

“Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death.”

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man **in our image**, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
27 **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**

Gen. 2:7 And **the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life;** and man became a living soul.

- To promote euthanasia, or abortion, one must hold no respect for an individual's life.
- To hold no respect for life, is to hold no respect for the Creator of life.

Job 33:4 **The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.**

Jn. 6:33 For the bread of God is **he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.**

Acts 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing **he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;**

- To take a life of one created in the image of the Creator, is worthy of “capital punishment.”

Gen. 9:6 **Whoso sheddeth man's blood**, by man **shall his blood be shed**: for **in the image of God made he man**.

- For a believer, to consider euthanasia is to forget to Whom you belong!

1 Cor. 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, **and ye are not your own?**

20 For **ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**

“Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God.”

- The taking of a life is considered by God to be “wicked.”

Ex. 23:7 Keep thee far from a false matter; and **the innocent and righteous slay thou not**: for I will not justify **the wicked**.

Mt. 15:19 For **out of the heart** proceed evil thoughts, **murders**, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

“Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment.”

Special challenges regarding euthanasia

- What about those on respirators who are brain dead?

Technically, they are dead and cannot “come back” to consciousness.

- What about those who are in constant pain?

Modern pain killing medicines offer most dying patients relief. Avoidance of pain as a reason for mercy killing is an ineffective medical argument.

As Christians, **we believe God has a reason for everything under heaven, yes, even suffering.**

Rom. 8:28 And **we know that all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

- God's will, even to suffer, must be accepted by faith for each individual.

Jn. 9:1 And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?**

3 Jesus answered, **Neither** hath this man sinned, nor his parents: **but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**

- What's the difference between hospice and palliative care?

A doctor writes an order for **hospice care** when the doctor **believes that the patient only has six months or less to live.**

The definition of **palliative care** is that of **comfort measures for someone who is seriously ill but has a life expectancy of years instead of months. The goal during hospice care is to make the patient as emotionally, physically, and spiritually as comfortable as possible.**

<https://www.care.com/c/questions/27285/hospice-vs-palliative-care-whats-the-diff/#:~:text=Hospice%20care%20and%20Palliative%20care%20are%20very%20similar.,that%20included%20palliative%20care%20after%20treatment%20has%20ceased>

- Is allowing euthanasia more loving than letting someone suffer?

NO HUMAN CAN OUT-LOVE THE GOD WHO IS LOVE!

Acts 17:28 **For in him we live, and move, and have our being**; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

- What about freedom of choice?

Who has the authority to make the choice between life and death? Is it the person sick, who may be delusional, or a family member inconvenienced by the effort needed, or is it the physician who has concerns regarding insurance coverage?

Doctors Starved Quadriplegic Coronavirus Patient to Death Because of His Disability

TEXAS RIGHT TO LIFE JUN 26, 2020 | 12:15PM AUSTIN, TX

Michael Hickson, a 46-year-old COVID-19 patient, was starved and left without adequate treatment for his illnesses at St. David's South Austin Medical Center. His wife, Melissa, says the hospital refused to treat his illnesses because of his disability.

Michael was conscious and alert but could not communicate verbally. He responded to jokes, shook his head, and puckered his lips on a FaceTime call when Melissa requested a kiss. Melissa asked if she could pray with her husband and their children, to which he nodded "yes." **But the doctor soon told Melissa her husband would be placed in hospice against her will.** In a recorded conversation, the St. David's doctor told Melissa her husband would not receive treatment because of his disability, despite her wishes.

St. David's doctor: "So as of right now, his quality of life – he doesn't have much of one."

Melissa: "What do you mean? Because he's paralyzed with a brain injury he doesn't have quality of life?"

St. David's doctor: "Correct."

<https://www.lifenews.com/2020/06/26/doctors-starved-quadruplegic-coronavirus-patient-to-death-because-of-his-disability/>

- God has a plan for each person's life.

Lam. 4:18 They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: **our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come.**

Job 14:1 Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. ...

5 **Seeing his days are determined**, the number of his months *are* with thee, **thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;**

Psa. 39:4 **LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days**, what it *is; that* I may know how frail I *am*.

Special consideration

Voluntary euthanasia or mercy killing is with the complete consent of the patient; **non-voluntary euthanasia** is killing a person who cannot give consent, and **involuntary euthanasia** is conducted against the consent of the patient. These can again be classified as **active and passive euthanasia**.

Active Euthanasia

Active euthanasia entails the active injection of a material that will cause cessation of functions that are required to continue the life. For example, injecting a large dose of morphine will cause cessation of respiration and injection of potassium chloride will cause arrhythmias and cardiac arrest. In most countries, this is considered criminal misconduct on the part of the doctor and generally brought to courts.

Passive Euthanasia

Passive euthanasia entails the withholding or non-performance of an action that would have saved that person. This can be elaborated by not allowing for the patient to be intubated, given oxygen, pushed in a drug that would resuscitate that person.

These options can be opted by the patient or by consensus of the medical team. The patient can write up a living will or appoint a health care proxy asking for a “DNR” or “Do Not Revive” order. This is legally binding. Or else the healthcare team can discuss and get the consent of the legal guardian or the patient as to do nothing during the next emergency. This is accepted in most countries, but in some, the legality is blurry, at best.

Thus, **active euthanasia is doing something to harm the patient, whereas passive euthanasia is not doing anything to save the patient.**

<https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-active-and-vs-passive-euthanasia/#:~:text=However%2C%20the%20active%20euthanasia%20deals%20with%20injection%20of,something%2C%20and%20the%20passive%20euthanasia%20is%20doing%20nothing>

- One's position on Euthanasia (and abortion) is a reflection of their personal worldview.

Evolutionist Claims “Survival of the Fittest” Makes it OK to Euthanize Disabled Newborns

WESLEY SMITH JUL 17, 2017 | 2:01PM WASHINGTON, DC

And now, he is promoting the propriety of infanticide. From, “Should One be Allowed to Euthanize Severely Deformed or Doomed Newborns?”:

If you are allowed to abort a fetus that has a severe genetic defect, microcephaly, spina bifida, or so on, then why aren't you able to euthanize that same fetus just after it's born?

Coyne makes the boringly predictable claim that since we euthanize our sick pets, we should also kill seriously ill and disabled babies. He then explains why he thinks the reasons we resist that meme are wrong, and indeed, irrational.

From his blog:

The reason we don't allow euthanasia of newborns is because humans are seen as special, and I think this comes from religion—in particular, the view that humans, unlike animals, are endowed with a soul.

It's the same mindset that, in many places, won't allow abortion of fetuses that have severe deformities. **When religion vanishes, as it will, so will much of the opposition to both adult and newborn euthanasia.**

Coyne's odious advocacy is the logical outcome of accepting the following premises:

- That human life does not have unique value simply and merely because it is human, and;
- That eliminating suffering is the overriding purpose of society—allowing the elimination *of the sufferer*.

<https://www.lifenews.com/2017/07/17/evolutionist-claims-survival-of-the-fittest-makes-it-ok-to-euthanize-disabled-newborns/>

- Such reasonings are a reflection of “eugenics” and its worldview.
- A believer's worldview reflects the Creator's perspective of worth for an individual.

Mt. 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: **ye are of more value than many sparrows.**

Mt. 12:11 And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift [it] out?

12 **How much then is a man better than a sheep?**

Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.

Two Scriptural Examples

Heb. 11:21 **By faith Jacob**, when he was a dying, **blessed** both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

22 **By faith Joseph**, when he died, **made mention** of the departing of the children of Israel; and **gave commandment concerning his bones.**

- From their deathbed, Jacob and Joseph, by faith honored God.
- When dying on the cross, the Lord Jesus gave an example of rejecting “pain killers.”

Mark 15:23 And **they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received *it* not.** ...

36 And one ran and filled a sponge **full of vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink**, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.

Jn. 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now **there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth.**

30 **When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Conclusion

First they came for the communists and I did not speak out because I was not a communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Finally, they came for me and there was no one left to speak out.

Martin Niemöller

German theologian and pastor

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Martin-Niemoller>

Having a Christian worldview has serious implications for the present, as well as for the next generations. We need to be vigilant!

1 Pet. 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: **for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

8 **Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**

9 Whom **resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.