

Lecture 22 – Respect for Human Life at the Beginning (Part II); Respect for the Natural End of Human Life (Part I)

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot...” Ecclesiastes 3:2 (NIV)

Key Terms

Euthanasia, neo-natal neglect, physician assisted suicide, medical non-treatment

Objectives

- *Define issues related to the ending of human life.
- *List 5 principles for determining issues related to the ending of human life.
- *Interact critically and biblically with various position in each of the issues.

Respect for Human Life at the Beginning (Part II)

VI. Human Embryo Research

- A. Current law
- B. Sources of stem cells
- C. Hampered by “abortion politics”
 - 1. Federal funding
 - 2. Live fetal research
 - 3. Fetal tissue research
- D. Moral line:
 - 1. We don’t draw it
 - 2. Is it controlled or discovered?
 - 3. Are embryos living human beings?
- E. Paul Ramsey
- F. Alternatives

Question & Answer

Respect for the Natural End of Life (Part I)

Introduction: 5 Principles

- God is sovereign over human life.
- Physical death is a relative evil.
- Life is to be lived to its fullest extent to the glory of God.
- Life is not to be abandoned on account of suffering.
- Imminent death is to be met with realism and readiness.

I. Euthanasia

- A. Definition by U.S. Roman Catholic Bishops (1996): an action or omission....
- B. *Westminster Confession of Faith* 135-136
- C. Terminal decision making
 - 1. Killing
 - 2. Neglect
 - 3. Non-intervention

II. Neo-natal Neglect

- A. Baby Doe
- B. Baby Theresa

- C. Legislative action
 - D. Peter Singer
 - E. Mercy killing?
 - F. Cultural reform
- III. Physician-assisted Suicide
- A. Hastings Report
 - B. Civil law
 - C. Voluntary euthanasia