

Lecture 23 – Respect for the Natural End of Human Life (Part II); Homosexuality (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, 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 positions in each of the issues.

Respect for the Natural End of Life (Part II)

Before the lecture begins, there is an initial discussion about information on the following website:

www.bioethics.org

III. Physician Assisted Suicide (cont.)

D. Problems and concerns

1. Endorses suicide
2. Compromises medical profession
3. Invites euthanasia
4. Puts vulnerable people at risk

E. Authority on suicide: Herb Hindon

IV. Medical Non-treatment

A. PCA Report (*PCA Position Papers on Ethical Issues*)

B. Abstract v. specific

C. Goal of medicine

D. Comfort care for dying

1. Companionship
2. Spiritual care
3. Hygiene
4. Pain killers

E. Nutrition and hydration

1. Futility
2. Burden v. benefit
3. Irreversible coma

F. Clinical signs of death

1. Traditional: irreversible secession of circulatory and respiratory functions
2. Modern: irreversible secession of all bodily functions, including the brain stem

Homosexuality (Part I)

Brief Introduction (see handout by M. S. Van Leeuwen)

I. Biblical Testimony on Homosexuality

A. Three biblical assumptions

1. All human beings are created in the image of God.
2. All human beings have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
3. All human beings are offered forgiveness and renewal through Christ.

B. Creation ordinances: Genesis 1:27; 2:24

C. Law of Moses: Leviticus 18:22 & 20:13