

TEXT: Rev. 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Euthanasia and infanticide will be considered together.
- B. Euthanasia is from two Greek words meaning "Good or easy death."
- C. For our purposes "The act or practice of killing or permitting the death of a hopelessly sick or injured individuals in a relatively painless way for reasons of mercy."
- D. Infanticide is the "killing of an infant."

BODY:

I. WHY IS EUTHANASIA AN ISSUE TODAY?

A. Medical Technology:

- 1. Medical technology has given us a problem not known even a generation ago.
- 2. Doctors can virtually prolong indefinitely the body functions.
- 3. Doctors have to deal with severely handicapped newborns that only 10 or 20 years ago would have died before or during birth.
- 4. Our technology has out run our moral thinking.

B. The Main Reason Is Not Medical Technology:

- 1. Less awareness of the value or sanctity of life.
- 2. Selfish desire to escape from the responsibility and inconvenience caused by those who can't care for themselves.
- 3. A drifting from God and His word as a standard for moral and ethical behavior.

II. TWO CLASSIFICATIONS OF EUTHANASIA.

A. ACTIVE-Euthanasia; with or without consent.

- 1. "The act of causing death by a deliberate and intentional action, 'killing'."

2. Giving drugs to kill.
3. "Can artificial feeding be withheld from a patient not terminally ill?" In the past the answer was NO. Not so any more.
4. Many are pushing for a "check out" age. When a man or woman reaches 70 or so they would be asked to kill themselves if not they would be killed.

B. PASSIVE-Euthanasia.

1. Withholding of medical treatment so as to allow the patient to die.
2. This view says not to use "heroic measures or extraordinary means."
3. Heroics-"All medicines, treatments and operations; which will not cure the pathology, but will restrain its progressive destruction; which offers no sure hope of cure and may involve risks."

C. Difference between ACTIVE and PASSIVE Euthanasia is the difference between trying to help and trying to the fight.

1. Passive, non-action Euthanasia is just a surrendering when death has obviously won the fight and there is nothing to be gained from continuing to extend the fight.
2. Active Euthanasia is a deliberate and intentional act of killing.

III. WHO WOULD ACTIVE EUTHANASIA EFFECT.

A. Almost everyone at all points of his or her life.

1. Ethicist Joseph Fletcher offered these indicators of personhood
2. IQ greater than 40
3. Self-awareness
4. Self-control
5. A sense of time
6. Capability of concern for others
7. Communication

B. Severely or even non-severely handicapped newborn infants.

1. Abortion is legal in the U.S.
2. So we hear, "If we knew this three months ago, we could have killed it. Why can't we kill it now?" Indeed WHY NOT?

3. This is done in most major hospitals across the U.S.
4. Doctors use the following guides (Either or both).
 - a. If there is no significant potential for meaningful life.
 - b. Emotional and/or financial hardship of caring for the child would cause a grave burden for the family.
5. They decide with the family if the child lives or dies.
6. If death, almost always the baby is shoved aside to die from lack of food and water.

C. Those severely injured.

1. Many who have no chance of recovery are kept alive.
2. Most hospital emergency rooms have the equipment to keep one alive.
3. This is done until the extent of injuries can be learned.

D. Those who have an incurable terminal disease.

1. They say "put them out of their misery like a sick dog."
2. Problem: People are not dogs, they have a soul and are made in the image of God.
3. Problem: Doctors are far from being God.
4. Problem: Not too long ago many things were incurable that today can be cured with only a shot.

E. Any persons who have no longer any hope of a meaningful human existence or who would be a burden to others if kept alive.

1. Aged- Check out age. Look at many who we have known who lived to close to or 100.
2. Mentally ill- a burden.
3. Anyone who could not care for themselves.
4. Hitler started this way until he went so far as to kill bed-wetter, etc.
5. Question: Who decides what "meaningful human existence" is?
6. Question: Who determines who is a "burden."

IV. THE BIBLE AND EUTHANASIA:

Notice some scriptures: Exodus 4:11 John 9:1-3 Luke 14:13-14

A. It Is Wrong To Shed Man's Blood.

1. Gen. 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

2. Ex. 23:7 "Keep yourself far from a false matter; do not kill the innocent and righteous. For I will not justify the wicked.

B. In Fact We Are Told To Help Those Being Wronged.

1. Prov. 24:11-12 deliver those Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?
2. Rom. 15:1 bear the weak 1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
3. Acts 20:35 support the weak "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

C. Help those we see that are in need- 1 Jn. 3:17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

D. We Are To Care For Our Family.

1. Ex. 20:12-13 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder.
2. 1 Tim. 5:3-4 Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God., 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
3. China's atheistic government takes care of old.

E. What We Do To Men We Do To Christ- Matt. 25:41-46 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me. Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of

these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

F. Can't destroy God's temple.

1. 1 Cor. 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.
2. Thief kills, robs life from someone- Jn. 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

G. Mercy killing is wrong- 2 Sam. 1:1-16 Now it came to pass after the death of Saul, when David had returned from the slaughter of the Amalekites, and David had stayed two days in Ziklag, on the third day, behold, it happened that a man came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. So it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the ground and prostrated himself. And David said to him, "Where have you come from?" So he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." Then David said to him, "How did the matter go? Please tell me." And he answered, "The people have fled from the battle, many of the people are fallen and dead, and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also." So David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and Jonathan his son are dead?" Then the young man who told him said, "As I happened by chance to be on Mount Gilboa, there was Saul, leaning on his spear; and indeed the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him. "Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' "And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' "He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.' So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord." Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the Lord and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. Then David said to the young man who told him, "Where are you from?" And he answered, "I am the son of an alien, an Amalekite." So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?" Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go near, and execute him!" And he struck him so that he died. So David said to him, "Your blood is on your own head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the Lord's anointed.' "

H. Murderers not in heaven:

1. Rev. 21:8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

2. Rev. 22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We are not in the place of God.
- B. We can't decide who is to live and who is to die.
- C. Each family must decide when to "pull the plug."
- D. Must base our decision upon God's word.
- E. Follow God's word today by obeying the Gospel.

C.S. Lewis coined the term, "verbicide" to denote the murder of a word. That is what euthanasia advocates have done with the language of "compassion" and "mercy." In order to advance their agenda with the public, euthanasia advocates are cloaking doctor's deliberate homicide of patients in rosy phrases such as "quality of life, death with dignity, and the "right to die". But no matter what they call it, active euthanasia is still murder.

Active euthanasia in all it's forms is wrong because it usurps God's exclusive prerogative over human life and death.

Passive euthanasia- allowing death under certain circumstance- does not necessarily violate any biblical principles per se.