

SHOULD EUTHANASIA BE LEGALIZED?

For ...

it seems to offer 'death with dignity' to those suffering a painful terminal illness

it may help others who are afraid of death to know that their going need not be traumatic

it may ease the pain and worry of relatives who have to watch a long, drawn out death

some argue that their life belongs to them; they should have the right to say when and how they should die

the initial decision about euthanasia could be made when the individual was not under the stress of immediate suffering; they could draw up an 'advanced directive' - instructions for a euthanasia

euthanasia seems to be righting the imbalance brought about by expensive medical technologies which seem to prolong life meaninglessly

the ever-increasing ranks of very elderly sick people, with their drain on scarce medical resources that could be better used on the young, create a problem for which euthanasia would provide a quick and easy solution

a number of the medical profession feel that euthanasia would be a good thing provided there were careful controls built in to the law

countries like the Netherlands already tolerate euthanasia, even though it is still officially against the law

the population profiles of most European nations show a marked increase in the proportion of elderly and very elderly people; the demand for euthanasia is likely to increase

Against ...

euthanasia attacks life in its last moments; God is the owner of all life, the liberties humans take with life are an affront to God; Christians believe that we should be *good stewards* of the life God has given us

the pro-euthanasia argument appeals powerfully to the emotions (*'who can watch this poor man suffer?' ...*) but emotions are fickle and can deceive us

Christians believe that unavoidable suffering is not useless: joined to Christ's own suffering it can help redeem the world

in a society where euthanasia is accepted, families may pressure their sick/elderly relatives into taking that option so that the family are spared expense and trouble

hospices provide the terminally ill with the warm environment for a 'death with dignity'; pain-control techniques (palliative care) are now incredibly advanced

a law allowing euthanasia would cause more pain than it seeks to relieve; the 'slippery slope' argument may well apply here

a person with a grave illness cannot say their life has no meaning without implying that the lives of, say, people born with severe handicaps/illnesses also have no meaning

terminal illnesses today may, with research, become treatable illnesses tomorrow

doctors and nurses are meant to act always to uphold life

being against euthanasia is not the same as wanting to prolong life at any cost; Christians do not believe there is an obligation to use extraordinary means to preserve life