

COMMUNITY CONTENDER

I TIMOTHY 2:15

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A LIVING WILL OR A WILL TO LIVE?

Living in a society which oft denies the reality of death, fears to speak of it, and almost worships self – preservation, it can be very awkward addressing the prospect of death, the process of dying and eternal things. People of the Book should have faithful answers for the gnawing questions which swirl around talks of “assisted suicide”, “death with dignity”, “euthanasia”, and “right to die” discussions.



George Shaw said, “Death is the ultimate statistic, one out of one dies.” The curse of sin resulted in spiritual, physical, and eternal death and though we should not have to be reminded of its inevitability, this ever so cruel enemy does catch us unawares. We don’t expect anyone to die, least of all ourselves. The Genesis serpent concocted the popular, original lie - “Ye shall not surely die” (Gen. 3:4) and has been promoting it ever since. The illusion that we can sin and yet live forever with God is irresistible. Only when someone we know and love dies do most of us wake up, briefly, to the truth (Rom. 5:12; Heb. 9:27).

CERTAIN DIVINE PRINCIPLES MUST BE EMBRACED WHEN FACING ALL ISSUES OF LIFE AND DEATH:

1. God is sovereign and supreme in the control of the event of death, as well as its timing and its means – (Note Ps. 90:12; Duet. 32:39; Job 1:21; Ps. 68:20; Ps. 31:15)
2. Human life and dignity come from God – Since we are created in His image (unique in His creation – Gen. 2:24-25) we therefore are precious to Him and like unto Him in personality, in spirit, soul, mind and will. He has invested in us His worth of personhood and valuation of life (Gen. 9:6).

The Genesis serpent concocted the popular, original lie - “Ye shall not surely die”
3. All human life has equal dignity – Even our forebears recognized this principle by their statement in the Declaration of Independence which says, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...” All people are of one race - the human race (Acts 17:25-26) created by almighty God and are thereby of equal value to Him. This truth refutes any claims to racism, sexism, ageism and subtle calls for “quality of life.” No matter the incapacitation, chronic sickness, mental disability, or other human condition which renders someone dependent, they bear this dignity and have equal claim on all of us.
4. Thou shalt not kill – This sixth moral commandment of the living God protects all human life, including the unborn (Ps. 139:1-10) and certainly includes both suicide and homicide – the killing of one’s self and of others. “Euthanasia” (painless killing to relieve suffering), may be “voluntary,” in which case it is consensual homicide – partly suicide and yet fully homicide at one and the same time. Killing can also be committed by omission if we stop essential life care for patients who are dependent on us. We have a divine obligation to do whatever possible, however possible to preserve the life of those in our care whether they be family members, or the sick and dying in community at large.
5. Thou shalt love thy neighbor – The Lord Jesus reaffirmed this great command of the O. T. Law (Mk. 12:31) and it is this kind of love that may be exercised not only in the preservation of life but in the care given to the sick and dying.

NAME BRAND OR KNOCK OFF?

Most products marketed to the consumer have a name brand imprinted or fashioned on them. The brand stands for the quality of the product and the reputation and reliability of the company who made it. To purchase a name brand is to purchase hopefully the best. There are countless knock-off, cheap imitations. We can all be glad for the store brands at the grocery store; hundreds of dollars are saved every year. With some things, one cannot afford to settle for something that is not the best. Brands cost something and are worth more. A Hoyt bow will cost a lot more than one from Walmart and perhaps Cabelas, but it will live up to the standards of the name brand. This is generally true in all marketing.



Spiritually there is an application here. There is no room to settle for anything less than the best in our spiritual lives.

We must make sure that our Christian life be name brand and not knock-off. **Our faith must be name brand and stand the test as that which is truly real.** *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. Thou*

*Repentance:
Repentance is owning
my self-righteousness,
confessing my
unrighteousness, and
trusting Christ for His
righteousness!
It is the difference
between the Pharisee
and the Publican
Luke 18*

believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:17-20) Our repentance must live up to the Bible's high standard. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. (II Cor. 7:10-11) We cannot have a cheap substitute. The fruit of the Spirit must not be in any way cheapened, we cannot afford to have any lack of quality in spiritual performance. To walk in the flesh produces nothing that will please the Lord and certainly is devoid of any fruitfulness. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live

in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-25)

Satan is out full-time to sell us cheap substitutes that look good but don't live up to the Lord's perfect expectations. Let us not settle for anything less than true Name Brand Christianity.

STAYING HOME FROM BATTLE:

II Samuel 11:1 *And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth [to battle], that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.*

A warrior's job is to fight in the battle when there is war at hand. His responsibility is even greater if he is called as a leader of the battle. Thus it was with King David. He was a warrior who had slain his ten thousands yet in the time when Kings went forth to battle, he hung up His armor and put up his sword. David also laid aside his spiritual armor and found that tarrying times are tempting times. How sad to neglect the duty in battle. David fell prey to a great enemy that day. The traveler came and David spared not and was pierced with the arrow of temptation, yielding to the lust of the flesh. David was in trouble and should have called to mind the admonition of Moses to those who would settle down on the east of Jordan, *And Moses said unto the children of Gad and to the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?.* No Christian soldier can sit idly by and watch his brothers go to war knowing that he ought be by their side and expect any good to come out of it. (Numbers 32:6) We cannot afford to lay aside armor and shelve the sword. We may find ourselves fallen on some balcony of ease rather than victorious on the battlefield.

MEMORY CORNER:

For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word

Isaiah 66:2

For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Isaiah 57:15

WILL TO LIVE CONTINUED...

Today's hospice (home hospital care) movement was originally motivated as a loving Christian response to the needs of the dying. It is the application of the law of love that has directed the minds of some who have encouraged the implementation of "advanced directives" such as a Living Will.

"CURSE GOD AND DIE":

*Mrs. Job appears to be one of the first promoters of euthanasia with her pathetic counsel to her suffering, disabled husband. What should be our response when disease and incapacity take their toll on the human body? Do we have this so called "right to die?" From a legal perspective the Living Will is interpreted within the law as a declaration of one's right to die. It is regarded as a right, much like the right to refuse certain medical treatment. Taking the five previous theological tenants together, we ought to be very careful of choosing to make life and death decisions "human rights issues" outside of submission to the sovereign purposes and plans of our perfect God. Our "rights" must be in subjection to His rights on our life (I Cor. 6:19-20).

*Sadly, in our spiritually and morally weak society, views on the sanctity of human life and Judeo-Christian values on matters of life and death are being eroded by gross biblical ignorance, and evolutionary, humanistic, secularistic, atheistic ideas. Laws are being embraced which empower government to interfere with and infringe upon God-given, moral, spiritual and religious rights (i.e. abortion, same-sex marriage, assisted suicide, change therapy laws, etc.). When it comes to decisions about control over personal life and death matters, if our only legal options recognized by the law are either a person's right to control his/her life ("patient autonomy") or the State's right to do so, then we choose to exercise that control.

WHAT IS A "LIVING WILL?"

*Today, medical science and superior technology can sometimes prolong life long after any chance of recovery has passed. Often times the family, with physician counsel, is left to decide whether to maintain life through the use of high technology equipment. A Living Will can give the individual a voice in the decision. It is a legal document of declaration that provides a means for you to indicate your desires regarding treatment for a terminal situation.

*The "Living Will" has nothing to do with a "testamentary will" which a person uses to determine the disposition of their property and guardian of their children after their death. A Living Will is a separate document, a written declaration, executed by a person who is called the "declarant." It sets out in advance the declarant's desire to be allowed to die a natural death, to refuse life sustaining or life prolonging procedures, if the declarant should become terminally ill through disease or injury and have no human chance of recovery. It may also include personal dictates concerning burial and funeral arrangements.

*A person who is suffering from a terminal condition brought about by an illness or accident may not be able to communicate with his or her family. A Living Will can help a family make the decision to terminate life supports, because the declarant has already stated their desires. A Living Will also gives the declarant the opportunity to discuss with others, dear to them, their death. Another very vital aspect of a Living Will is the pre-appointing of a chosen "proxy" or "power of attorney" (spouse, adult child, relative, trusted friend, physician) who becomes a decision maker on the declarant's behalf in addressing medical issues in line with their values and desires. Keep in mind that "power of attorney" laws are quite broad granting this "proxy" sweeping authority to make decisions with total immunity. It behooves the declarant to have very specific discussions with this power of attorney so that there is as full an understanding as possible as to his/her wishes.

*It is not necessary to use an attorney to prepare a Living Will, but an attorney can help make sure that the document meets the required legal formalities. The Living Will must be on a proper form, signed by the declarant and two witnesses and dated. Although a notary is not necessary, it does strengthen the basic language of the declaration.

EVALUATE THE LANGUAGE OF A LIVING WILL:

*Living Wills often use rather loose language that is too general and vague. For example, some Living Wills refer to death that "...will occur in a relatively short period of time." What is a relatively short time? Days? Hours? How far

WILL TO LIVE CONTINUED...

away will death have to be before a Living Will can be invoked? Some Living Wills use the term "terminal illness." When does an illness become terminal? Upon the diagnosis of cancer or after a period of time when it is clear that the condition is beyond the ability of medicine to treat?

*Another vague term in Living Wills is any declaration that the person does not desire to be kept alive by "artificial means" or "artificial life support." When asked to define this term most people mention ventilators and other medical machinery. However, a number of courts have added food and water (when they are provided intravenously and by a feeding tube) to the list of items considered "artificial life support." Yet, food and water are not medical treatments, even though they may be provided through tubes.

QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR LIVING WILL:

1. Is the document valid and enforceable in the State of Pennsylvania? (Some states do not have "Right to Die Statues.")
2. Do the people who will be responsible to implement your Living Will know it exists and what it contains? (Discuss the contents with family members, and alert them as to its location. It would be good for your primary care physician to know you have an advance directive.)
3. Does your Living Will define any terms that could be subject to various interpretations? (Spell out what you mean by "terminal illness"; "imminent death"; "artificial life support", etc.)
4. Does your Living Will declare your trust and hope in a merciful, sovereign and holy God? (Any documents that relate to your death should be used as a platform for holding forth the Word of life [Phil. 2:15-16] and affirming God's power and purpose in the giving, sustaining and taking of life. It would be good to include a statement that expresses your rejection of the notion of a "right to die" since it is God Who is in control of this decision. You should also include a testimony of your salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ as a witness.)
5. Does your Living Will stipulate under what conditions you would forego or require treatment? (You might include some of the more common conditions where a medical decision would be necessary.)

GUIDELINES FOR DRAFTING A LIVING WILL:

1. Contact the State Attorney General's office to make sure your advance directives are valid.
2. Name a person who will serve as your surrogate/proxy and define the medical decisions this person will be directed to make on your behalf. Wisdom requires it be a proxy who does not stand to gain from your death. In any case, it should be a godly family member or other Christian you trust and with whom you have discussed your desires.
3. Require three witnesses who will attest to the fact that the document was drafted and signed while you were of sound mind, of your own free will and not under duress. No witness should be a relative, heir, or beneficiary.
4. Make a provision for someone to be named guardian in case the directive is challenged or must be adjudicated. If you do not name a specific person as guardian and litigation results, the court will be free to appoint your guardian. This may not be in your best interest.
5. Make a specific statement that the courts enforce the instructions you give in the directive.
6. Direct that at no time should food and water be withheld unless your condition means: 1) your death will occur within hours, 2) the provision of food and water is itself painful and burdensome and 3) the intention of removing food and water is to alleviate physical suffering, not to hasten death.
7. Specify when the directive takes effect. At what point do you want the Living Will implemented?

KALE WALDORF SALAD

* Simply Recipes; Elise Bauer

Prep time: 20 minutes Yield: Serves 4

Ingredients

Dressing:

- 1/3 cup of mayonnaise
- 2 1/2 Tbsp water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons smooth Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 teaspoons cider vinegar
- Pinch salt
- Pinch freshly ground black pepper

Salad:

- 2 large sweet red apples, cored, and chopped
- 1 cup of sliced celery
- 1 cup lightly toasted walnuts, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries
- 2 cups (packed) sliced kale leaves (tough ribs removed before slicing)

Method

- 1 Whisk together the dressing ingredients in a medium sized bowl.
- 2 Place the apples, celery, walnuts, dried sweetened cranberries, and kale in a serving bowl.
- 3 Add the dressing to the salad and gently toss to combine. Add more salt and pepper to taste.

WILL TO LIVE CONTINUED...

8. Specify that the presence of the Living Will is not intended to endorse the concept of a right to die. Reaffirm your trust and faith in the living God of the Bible and that you know your life is in His hands (Job 13:15).

9. Update your Living Will every three years.

10. Give a copy of your Living Will to your pastor, family and primary care physician. Also keep the original with your other important documents and attach a note in your purse or wallet with your driver's license that such a document exists.

WILL WE FACE DEATH IN FAITH AND HOPE?

*A child of God must remember that all issues of life are fundamentally spiritual. Especially is this so very true when we face our departure from this life into the realm of the eternal. No decisions should be made without much prayer, dependence upon the Holy Spirit, guidance from the pure Word of God and complete dependence and trust in the supernatural purposes and power of almighty God. His presence gives us great assurance, strength, and peace in the face of the enemy death (II Cor. 1:3-10). As the Lord has carried us through life, we must trust Him to carry us through the Valley of the Shadow of death (Ps. 23). He can give divine wisdom, comfort, direction even in the most traumatic of circumstances so that we can die in Christ without fear and look to the glorious resurrection and life to come with the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 4:14-5:10).

Pastor David A. Smith

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

Sarah Hendricks-4	Brooke Stockton-17
Herb Lukens-6	Eddie Gonzales-21
Brittany Trauch-8	Dick Prue-22
Katelyn Ossman-8	Joseph Stoddard-22
Jason Makin-10	Frank Smith-23
Karis Smith-10	Noah Smith-23
Rachel Jacobs-10	Israel Rosario-25
Carolyn Meredith-12	Karen Cressman-26
Marti Schumaker-12	Jada McGonigal-26
Lisa Makin-13	Genesis Narvaez-28
Michelle Makin-13	Margie Daub-28
Jessica Maloney-13	Jose Narvaez Sr.-29
Tom and Laura McGonigal-14	Bob Meredith-30
Nancy Makin-15	Rachel Hendricks-30
Marcus Smith-16	



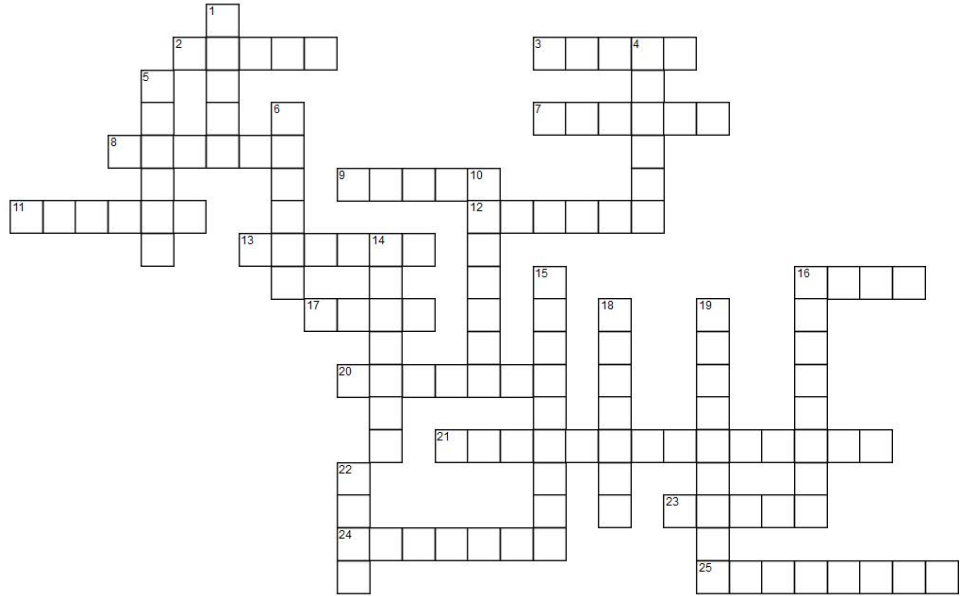
Prophets in the Scriptures

Can you identify the Man of God?

- Across**
- 2. known for going down, down, down
 - 3. preached that God's people were destroyed for lack of knowledge
 - 7. cried to the Lord for the sun dial to be brought back ten degrees
 - 8. his bones revived a man
 - 9. the final destruction of Nineveh
 - 11. consider your ways
 - 12. Tore a man's new garment in twelve pieces
 - 13. Cut a king in pieces
 - 16. whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered
 - 17. preaching caused a king to take courage and put away the abominable idols
 - 20. hated for his truthful messages

- 21. none greater born of women
- 23. preached God's requirements: do justly, love mercy, walk humbly with thy God
- 24. preached against the descendants of Esau
- 25. revive thy work in the midst of the years

- Down**
- 1 Knew the Lord face to face
 - 4 I even I only am left
 - 5 prophesied about a coming star
 - 6 Thou art the man
 - 10 declared the coming forerunner of Christ
 - 14 saw the wheels
 - 15 the Lord will joy with singing
 - 16 weeping prophet
 - 18 Went out not knowing where he went
 - 19 saw Satan standing by at the right hand to resist
 - 22 known for being a gatherer of sycamore fruit



*The first three completed correctly and shown to Pastor David will receive a treat!

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE

Ladies don't forget the
 GraceFull Living Ladies Fellowship
 Thursday Evening, November 17, 6:30
 Pastor and Heidi Smith's Home