

The Negative Effects of Euthanasia

A. On the Patient

1. The so-called "right to die" quickly becomes a duty to die because of subtle or direct pressure.
2. Treatment denied to deserving patients based on so-called "quality of life" decisions.
3. Loss of hope, self worth, and trust in the physician and family can lead to suicide.

B. On the Family

1. Provides an opportunity for a family with ulterior motives to acquire financial gain.
2. Undermines family stability by taking away hope. (Christian belief and values are undermined)
3. A family's perception of the patient's worth is devalued; dividing a family on life and death decisions.
4. Undermines family and patient control over medical treatment decisions.

C. On the Medical Community and Society

1. Killing becomes an option in medical treatment options.
2. Medical Caregivers change from healers and comforters to killers. (They play God)
3. Physicians and hospitals lose the faith and the trust of the public.
4. As medical ethics decline there will be a progressive loss of respect for all human life.
5. Suicide and murder become acceptable.
6. Economic pressures may lead to discrimination in medical decision making against persons with disabilities, or those who are poor, weak, or defenseless.

