

## Topic 4: Case Study on Death and Dying

The practice of health care providers at all levels brings you into contact with people from a variety of faiths. This calls for knowledge and understanding of a diversity of faith expressions; for the purpose of this course, the focus will be on the Christian worldview.

Based on "Case Study: End of Life Decisions," the Christian worldview, and the worldview questions presented in the required topic study materials you will complete an ethical analysis of George's situation and his decision from the perspective of the Christian worldview.

Provide a 1,500-2,000-word ethical analysis while answering the following questions:

1. How would George interpret his suffering in light of the Christian narrative, with an emphasis on the fallenness of the world?
2. How would George interpret his suffering in light of the Christian narrative, with an emphasis on the hope of resurrection?
3. As George contemplates life with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), how would the Christian worldview inform his view about the value of his life as a person?
4. What sorts of values and considerations would the Christian worldview focus on in deliberating about whether or not George should opt for euthanasia?

In the Christian worldview, God has created people in his own image. We have intrinsic value and are godlike beings, possessing a range of faculties (rational, moral and social) which distinguishes us from animals. We have the ability to establish and maintain relationships of love. It is because we are made in the image of God, who is love. Euthanasia is not an option for a Christian. It is because human life bears God's image. We do not have the authority or power for us to terminate. In addition, we choose euthanasia will impact other people because we are part of a community. We link with other people and are not autonomous. Moreover, we should not feel guilty or a burden on your family when you get sick.

1. According to the Christian worldview **we are part of community** joined to each other. We are not autonomous. The decisions we make impact other people.
2. If the law was changed there would be a **great risk that people would feel pressured into accessing assisted suicide or euthanasia**. At present if you are a burden on your family and the state and have a sensitive conscience you don't need to feel guilty about being a burden in the sense that there is nothing you can do about it. If assisted suicide or euthanasia became available, though, then there would be a mechanism sanctified with legal approval, that you could take.

God has made us rational and volitional beings. As such we have a God-given mind and will through which we are to live our lives by choice and not coercion. We are accountable to God for our decisions. Whilst choice is good, we need to qualify it with an understanding and appreciation of freedom, dependence and life.