

Small Group Study Guide

Is Planning an End of Life Date the Unforgivable Sin? |

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Job 14:5 | Romans 8:38-39
From Sunday July 19, 2020

Appetizer:

Question:

Have someone read the passages for the day.

What stands out to you?

Main Course:

Question: Euthanasia is a hot button issue in Canada. Have you had any experiences with someone who has established an end of life date? What was this experience like? How did it affect you?

The sermon suggested that there are five main aspects to a Christian view on life:

1. We believe life is sacred and precious.
2. Dying was not supposed to be part of the plan.
3. Dying is inevitable.
4. There is purpose and meaning in suffering.
5. Killing people in most cases is wrong.

Question: In what ways do Christians demonstrate that life is sacred and precious? In what ways do they NOT demonstrate this value? If someone was to ask you how a Christian values other human beings, what would you tell them?

Question: There is a great tension between the Christian understanding of dying not being part of the plan and dying being inevitable. Some people would feel that if you declare dying is inevitable, you lack faith. How do you reconcile God's vision for humanity with reality when it comes to death?

Randy Mueller gave a very touching testimony about the experience he had with his spouse going through a terminal sickness that led to her death.

Question: What did you find most moving about what Randy said? When it came to Randy's view on hospice vs. end of life dates, what resonated with

you? Hospice also provides medication to reduce pain, that arguably can hasten the person's death. How is palliative care not another form of euthanasia? What other choices do people have when it comes to preparing a loved one for death? What makes one choice more compassionate than another.

Finally... how is there purpose and meaning in suffering? Share some examples.

Dessert:

Jeff mentioned in his sermon that two responses Christians should have towards euthanasia is to commit to asking the hard questions in the debate. The discussion continued at the highest level and laws continue to be passed in how euthanasia works in Canada.

Question: What kind of questions should we be asking our Members of Parliament to be considering?

Jeff also mentioned that we need to live as advocates of life, at every stage of life. How do we encourage life to people that we know are considering end of life choices?

Take time as a group to pray for people that may be discouraged or thinking of taking their own life, or are in a terminal sickness situation feeling pressure to end their lives. Pray that God reveals himself to them and brings them life in the midst of their suffering.