

❶ The decision to remove the breathing machine (ventilator) from the terminally ill person (who will immediately die when it is removed) is an entirely *different* decision than the action this tract is discussing. This is a Biblically authorized judgment call, based upon expert medical advice as to the patient's chances for living. (Phil. 2:12).

❷ In contrast, the decision to aggressively pump (or help another pump) carbon monoxide (poison) into one's (the patient's) lungs is the decision this tract is discussing. It is this *active* euthanasia which the Bible rules against. Active euthanasia is what is accomplished when a Dr. Kevorkian type supplies a patient with a mask, tank of carbon monoxide and a connected tube for inhaling.



Objection Considered

The objection is heard today that the one who assists a terminally ill person to take his life is only trying to relieve the physical suffering of the patient. We know this. However, no one has the right to *play God* because of the existence of physical suffering and the existence of disease.

We do not seek to judge the motives of those who try to relieve the pain of the suffering, but the end result of their decision is an obvious violation of God's law (1 Jn. 3:4; Gal. 5:21 - "murders" is a sin/a work of the flesh). An act is not rational and scriptural simply because a person is sincere in his belief. Saul of Tarsus was responsible for the murder of Christians in much sincerity, but he was in error (Acts 23:1). He was under the disfavor of God *though he was sincere* and needed to obey God's will to receive God's favor (Acts 9:1-18; Acts 22:16). Truly as someone once said, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

Our Response

"What can I do?" you may ask. As Christians we have the opportunity to be light and salt to the people of the earth (Matthew 5:13-16). By our godly lives we may *flavor* our society with the standard of morality God desires.



ENDNOTES

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² Sir Edmond Burke, **Tennessee Citizen**, 3214 Tazewell Pike, Suite 204, Knoxville, TN 37918. A Special Report. 1994.

³ Ibid.

* *THE SPIRITUAL SWORD*, Vol. 9, July 1978, No. 4.

NOTE: This was published in 1994, except for a little editing in 2018, so for any references to the civil law positions and actions one should keep in mind any modern day changes in civil laws (which may contradict this tract). Also, references to Dr. Kevorkian, are to be considered (he was alive when this tract was written; Died: June 3, 2011, aged 83). **The Biblical principles in this tract, however, do not change and God's higher law (The New Testament) is the ultimate, overriding authority.**



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Cookeville, TN 38501



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