

Does euthanasia provide a potential for torture?

There are many states that have either implemented or are evaluating what is typically called Doctor Assisted Suicide while others in some form or another are looking into performing euthanasia on others.

1. Why do people seek euthanasia?

Judges **9:52-54**
Judges **16:25-30**

1 Samuel **31:1-5**
Ephesians **2:11-13**

Generally people seeking euthanasia are identified as being associated with being terminally ill. These are people who are convinced that they are about to die. The idea is that the one who considers his life as being essentially over, that it would be better to die sooner than later and to die “with dignity” and “honor”. The person seeking euthanasia will generally be depressed and totally seeking relief from their suffering. Sometimes the suffering is physiological while other times it might be psychosomatic only. Since the one who dies in agreement with the pursuit of death and with the method of death, most would not consider such a death to be torture. Some of the family that is left behind might disagree though.

2. Are all people euthanized seeking some form of assisted suicide?

2 Samuel **4:5-8**

2 Kings **8:7-15**

Sometimes people carry out what they might consider to be euthanasia on another person in order to stop or slow the pain of the euthanized one or others closely associated with them. In modern times, euthanasia can be carried out with the goal of providing “relief” to those who care for the person being euthanized. In this case, it can easily be seen how euthanasia could be viewed as a form of torture. Either the euthanized one could be tortured by the manner of death that has been chosen for the person or the loved ones could be indirectly tortured with feelings of guilt or remorse based upon their own actions.

3. What does God think about euthanasia?

Exodus **20:13**
Deuteronomy **30:19-20**

Genesis **9:5-6**
Psalm **139:16**

God is clear from the beginning of the scriptures to the end that life is important to Him. He is the creator of life and our days are only to be limited according to God's decree. We have no right to terminate our own life nor the life of any other. To take the life of another, even if it is with their approval, is the same as plotting their murder.

4. Why did David kill the man reporting the death of Saul?

2 Samuel **1:4-10**
1 Samuel **1:15**

1 Samuel **1:11-14**
1 Samuel **1:16**

The Amalekite deliberately raised up his hand against Saul. Although Saul would have most likely died from his injuries, the man had no right in the eyes of God to take Saul's life. The only one who would be justified in the taking of his life is God. All others are in a sense deciding for themselves who is not only capable of living but also worthy of living.