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Bryce Waller

Difficult Decisions
Biblical Wisdom for Making End-of-Life Decisions

Introduction: The Moral Quandaries of Modern Medicine

How should we answer these questions?

Biblical Principles

Is “euthanasia” or “physician assisted suicide” a legitimate option for Christians?

Must we seek to preserve our lives at all costs?

What considerations ought we consider when deciding whether or not to undergo treatment?

1. *Is the treatment likely to be successful?*
2. *What are the side-effects or burdens of the treatment?*
3. *What will life be like on the other side of treatment (if successful)?*

An Example

“A woman in her thirties is fighting leukemia. She has been brought into remission after relapse but she is certain to face another relapse and then death if she does not receive a bone marrow transplant. Yet her physicians have been unable to find a suitable adult marrow donor, and the only available course of treatment is an experimental transplant using umbilical cord stem cells. Because of the many uncertainties surrounding this experimental procedure, her physicians have indicated that it has only a 20 percent chance of success.”¹

¹ *Bioethics and the Christian Life*, David Vandrunen (Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2009), 227.