

Dying to Live!

SESSION NOTES WITH ANSWERS



Session 1

“Resting from our Labors”

- 1) The cause of death is SIN.
Genesis 2:16-17 Romans 5:12
- 2) When we die our SOUL is separated from our BODY.
Ecclesiastes 12:7
- 3) The SOULS of people who die believing in Jesus REST with Him in HEAVEN.
Luke 23:39-43 2 Corinthians 5:8 Revelation 14:13 John 14:3
- 4) People without faith in Jesus die without HOPE.
Proverbs 11:7 Luke 16:19-31
- 5) We know that heaven has a PHYSICAL QUALITY and LOCATION because Jesus and Elijah were physically transported there.
2 Kings 2:11 Acts 1:6-9 (Perhaps Enoch - Genesis 5:24 & Hebrews 11:5)
- 6) In heaven our spirits WORSHIP God constantly while He CARES for our every need.
Revelation 7:9-17
- 7) ANGELS are angels; PEOPLE are people!
Matthew 22:30 Hebrews 2:14-16
- 8) There is no evidence that we become GHOSTS, or that we are OMNIPRESENT,
or that we have any awareness of EARTHLY EVENTS.
Proverbs 11:7 Luke 16:19-31
- 9) Heaven IS NOT our final resting place!
John 11:21-24



Session 2

“Making Difficult Decisions”

- 1) Submit yourself to GOD'S WILL in all plans and decisions that you make.
Romans 14:7-9

- 2) “No one is required to receive treatment that is FUTILE or which the patient considers BURDENSOME.”
- Richard Eyer, *Holy People, Holy Lives* (p 91)
- 3) Even a healthy person can be STARVED TO DEATH.
- 4) If in doubt, FEED and HYDRATE.
- CTCR, “*Christian Care at Life’s End*” (p 10)

Guiding Principles from “Christian Care at Life’s End”

- 5) Principle 1: Euthanasia, in its proper sense, is a synonym for mercy killing, which involves suicide and/or murder. It is, therefore, contrary to GOD’S LAW.
- 6) Principle 2: As Creator, GOD ALONE knows with certainty whether a disease or an injury is incurable.
- 7) Principle 3: When the God-given powers of the body to sustain its own life can no longer function and doctors in their professional judgment conclude that there is no real hope for recovery even with life-support instruments, a Christian may in good conscience “LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE”.
- 8) Principle 4: Administering pain-killing medications, even at the risk of shortening life, is PERMISSIBLE, since this does not entail the choice of death as either a means or an end.
- 9) “Christians aim always to CARE, never to KILL.”
- CTCR, “*Christian Care at Life’s End*” (p 5)
- 10) “The obedience of faith is to learn to submit to GOD in our HELPLESSNESS and trust Him no matter what the outcome.”
- Richard Eyer, *A Christian Guide to End-of-Life Decisions*

Guiding Principles from “Christian Care at Life’s End”

- 11) Principle 6: Each person, no matter how INFIRM and socially USELESS he or she may appear to be, deserves to be accepted as a being created in the image of God.
- 12) Principle 7: While SUFFERING is an intrusion into life, it provides the opportunity for Christian witness and service.
- 13) Principle 8: Often the time prior to death is so wrapped in mystery that no one ought forcibly to interrupt the movement of a man’s SPIRIT as it may be communicating through God’s Spirit with his Creator and Redeemer by way of responding in trust and inner yearning
- 14) Principle 9: Death is not merely a PHYSICAL but a crucial SPIRITUAL event for each person.
- 15) Principle 10: Any decisions made in this highly complex area, and any actions taken that may later appear to have been wrong, have been REDEEMED by that FORGIVENESS which is available to all who put their trust in the work and merits of mankind’s Savior and Redeemer.

Valuable Resources Used in this Presentation:

“*Christian Care at Life’s End*”, A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, February 1993; <http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=361>

“*Holy People, Holy Lives: Law and Gospel in Bioethics*”, by Richard C. Eyer, Concordia Publishing House, 2000; <http://www.cph.org/p-377-holy-people-holy-lives.aspx>

Session 3

“Honoring Our Loved Ones”

- 1) In most cases there are no Biblical COMMANDMENTS regarding how we deal with our loved ones after death. In such cases we look toward Biblical PRECEDENTS to evaluate our modern traditions.
- 2) “The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ENCOURAGES organ donation as an act of Christian love, but this choice is entirely up to the individual and/or his or her family, and should not be a cause of guilt or regret no matter what decision is made.”
- *LCMS Views - Life Issues* (p 6)
- 3) The FTC FUNERAL RULE protects consumers in dealing with funeral homes and cemeteries.
- 4) The LCMS has NO OFFICIAL POSITION on cremation.
- *LCMS Views - Life Issues* (p 4)
- 5) Ultimately, “this is a matter of CHRISTIAN FREEDOM and no Christian who chooses to have a loved one cremated rather than buried should be led to think that such a decision is sinful or in opposition to the Word of God.”
- *LCMS Views - Life Issues* (p 4)
- 6) Each state has their own LAWS pertaining to burial and cremation.
- 7) Florida DOES NOT REQUIRE embalming. However, a body must be embalmed or refrigerated within 24 hours of death.
- *Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips*
- 8) The FTC states that “the funeral provider may not REFUSE, or charge a FEE, to handle a casket you bought elsewhere.”
- “*Funerals: A Consumer Guide*”, *Federal Trade Commission* (p 5)
- 9) Florida does not require the purchase of a VAULT.
- *Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips*
- 10) “The cemetery company CANNOT require that the vault or grave liner be purchased from their company.
- *Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips*

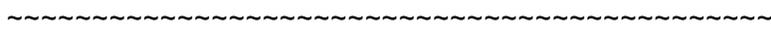
- 11) Florida allows for the establishment of FAMILY CEMETERIES of less than two acres, which do not sell burial spaces or burial rights. Check local zoning laws and deed restrictions, etc. to determine if it is allowed in the local community.
- 12) You are NOT required to buy and urn for your loved ones ashes.
- Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips
- 13) Ashes can be spread on any Florida LANDS, but not in any Florida FRESH WATER.
- Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips
- 14) If you wish to use your boat to spread ashes at sea... The United States Coast Guard issues PERMITS for burial at sea within the three mile limit.
- Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips
- 15) A cremation CASKET is NOT required in the state of Florida.
- Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips

Valuable Resources Used in this Presentation:

“LCMS Views – Life Issues”, <http://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=551>

Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery & Consumer Services: Consumer Tips
http://www.myfloridacfo.com/FuneralCemetery/fc_consumerfaq.htm

“Funerals: A Consumer Guide”, Federal Trade Commission
<http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0056-funerals.pdf>



Session 4 “Unbearable Grief!”

- 1) Grieving is NORMAL, NATURAL AND NECESSARY! Even JESUS grieved!
- 2) Death is not NATURAL.
- 3) Death can bring one to REDEFINE who they are.
- 4) Expressions of mourning can include CRYING, SELF-EXCLUSION, FEAR OF BEING ALONE, PHYSICAL ILLNESS, FORGETFULNESS, DISORIENTATION, and SPIRITUAL CRISIS.
- 5) Give yourself PERMISSION to grieve!
- 6) No, you are not CRAZY or “LOSING YOUR MIND”.
- 7) You cannot set unrealistic EXPECTATIONS for yourself or others.
- 8) There is no TIME LIMIT or SCHEDULE for your grief.

- 9) However, we do not grieve as those who have NO FAITH.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 10) Steps you can take: Avoid DENIAL (own the experience); EXPRESS your feelings (talk, journal, blog, etc.); EXPERIENCE the pain, find COPING mechanisms that work for you, and learn how to live with your NEW NORMAL (redefinition of self).
- 11) Practical Suggestions: Maintain a daily ROUTINE, Use FAITH resources, CONFIDE in someone (e.g. Griefshare group), Release your ANGER (constructively), EXERCISE, and Avoid CHEMICALS.
- 12) There is a difference between typical grieving and CLINICAL DEPRESSION or other PSYCHOLOGICAL afflictions.
- 13) EXPECT behavioral changes in children who are grieving and HELP them to cope with their feelings.
- 14) Practical suggestions for helping others: Be PATIENT, LISTEN, Be AVAILABLE, Offer SPECIFIC help (don't say "call if you need anything"), Don't give ADVICE about grieving, Use the BIBLE, and Don't make JUDGMENTS.
- 15) Watch for WARNING SIGNS of deeper problems.
- 16) Reach out to grieving people during their year of "FIRSTS" – anniversaries, birthdays & holidays.
- 17) Be prepared to hear people say "STUPID THINGS".
- 18) Whether you are the one grieving or the caregiver, always remember that you are not ALONE.
1 Thessalonians 4:17; Matthew 28:20

Valuable Resources Used in this Presentation:

"A Time to Mourn, A Time to Dance", Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

"Journeying through Grief" (4 book series), Stephen Ministries
<https://www.stephenministries.org/griefresources/default.cfm/775>

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## Session 5 "Heaven is NOT our home!"

- 1) Heaven is NOT our home... we are part of God's CREATION!  
- Genesis 2:7; John 3:11-13
- 2) According to John 11, the resurrection will occur on the LAST DAY.  
- John 11:21-24
- 3) The Last Day will arrive when JESUS RETURNS.  
- Acts 1:6-11; 2 Peter 3:10; Matthew 24:29; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

- 4) EVERYONE will be resurrected.  
- Revelation 1:7; John 5:28-29
- 5) We will get NEW and IMPROVED bodies, but beyond that it is a MYSTERY.  
- 1 John 3:2
- 6) Those who are still alive will be JOINED with the resurrected and Jesus.  
- 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
- 7) After the resurrection EVERYONE will be judged.  
- Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:31-46
- 8) As far as we can tell, our new home will be in the new JERUSALEM on the new EARTH.  
- Revelation chapters 19-22