

PHI 413V Topic 4 Case Study: End-of-Life Decisions

Student Name

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Instructor Name

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How George Interprets His Suffering In Light Of The Christian Narrative, With An Emphasis On The Fallenness Of The World

According to Christian theology, George's suffering could be viewed as a result of the world's sin and, therefore, the fall of man. According to Bogue and Hogan (2020), sin came into the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience, resulting in a fallen and defective world. This suggests that pain, sickness, and death are all a result of the fall of man and are a part of the world's flaws. In this framework, George's suffering may be interpreted as a direct effect of the world's fallen state and a manifestation of sin. Christians believe that they will endure difficulties in this life and that suffering may help them grow and refine their faith (Braun, 2022). This suffering, for George, might be viewed as a chance to strengthen his faith in God and believe in his sovereignty.

However, Christians hold that God is a caring and compassionate God who is constantly there with His people, even while suffering. They believe that God will use their sufferings to further their faith or provide others with consolation and hope. In this way, George might find solace in knowing that his pain is not worthless and has a purpose, even if he does not realize it yet. Regarding euthanasia, the Christian worldview is likely to be opposed. Christians hold that life is sacred and that it is a gift from God (Orr, 2001). They believe that it is not their responsibility to determine when their life will end since that is in the hands of God.

Furthermore, Christians believe that life on Earth is fleeting and that there is an everlasting existence beyond this one in which they will be free of misery and suffering. This can provide consolation to George as he faces the possibility of his ultimate deterioration, knowing that he will be free of his agony at some point.

How George Interpret His Suffering In Light Of The Christian Narrative, With An Emphasis On The Hope Of Resurrection

George's suffering would be viewed as a result of the world's fall of man in light of the Christian worldview, with a focus on the prospect of resurrection. According to the theory of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, pain and death came into the world as a consequence of human sin, a consequence of creation's imperfection (Roberts, 2017). On the other hand, Christians believe that death is simply a transitional condition. They anticipate the day when death will be conquered and everything will be made new. From this worldview, George's suffering may be regarded as a chance to develop faith and confidence in God's plan, even if it is not fully understood at the time. The Christian belief in the bodily resurrection gives George faith that one day he will be cured and entire again, free of the physical constraints of ALS. This hope gives him solace and peace, believing that his hardship is not in vain and that he will be free of pain and constraints in the future. Furthermore, Christians hold that suffering may be redemptive, allowing for spiritual growth and participation in Christ's suffering. Christians can develop their faith and get closer to God by accepting their pain (Roberts, 2017). They consider their suffering as a way to participate in God's work in the world and to make a difference in the lives of others.

How The Christian Worldview Informs George's View About The Value Of His Life As A Person

According to the Christian worldview, every person is made in God's image and hence has intrinsic value and worth (Braun, 2022). This concept applies to everyone, regardless of their physical, mental, or emotional state. Given this, George's life as an ALS patient would still have

enormous value and significance from the perspective of Christians. Suffering, according to Christians, is a byproduct of the fall of man and the world and was not part of God's original plan for creation. However, it is also viewed as a way of spiritual growth and sanctification and a means of demonstrating God's love and grace to others. George may resort to prayer and his trust in God amid his pain to help him persevere and find purpose in his predicament. Furthermore, the Christian narrative's expectation of resurrection brings solace and confidence that death is not the end. Christians believe in the bodily resurrection and the reunion of the soul with a flawless, resurrected body (Bogue & Hogan, 2020). This conviction gives George hope that one day he will be free of his pain and experience total healing and restoration in God's presence.

In the context of this hope, the Christian worldview would advise George to see his life and suffering as a chance to honor God and demonstrate his faith and confidence in God, even in the face of hardship. He may also find solace in knowing that his suffering is not in vain and can have a purpose in moving him closer to God and allowing others to experience God's love and kindness. According to the Bible, God has a destiny and a goal for everyone, and nothing can separate anyone from God's love. "For I am sure that neither death nor life, angels nor demons, the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord," writes Paul in Romans 8:38-39 (Bogue & Hogan, 2020). This verse gives George hope and comfort in knowing that his worth as a person is decided by his status as a loving child of God, not by his physical talents or limitations.

**Values And Considerations Christian Worldview Focus On In Deliberating About
Whether Or Not George Should Opt For Euthanasia**

Life is seen as holy and extremely valuable in the Christian worldview since it is regarded as a gift from God. Human life aims to honor God and to carry out God's divine plan for each individual. Christianity considers life sanctity a fundamental value, believing life is a gift from God that should be honored and appreciated. Christians believe that life is a valuable gift that should not be treated lightly and that euthanasia is ethically wrong since it entails killing oneself. The value of love, both for oneself and others, is emphasized in Christianity. Christians are instructed to love their neighbors as they love themselves, as well as to demonstrate compassion and care for those in need (Anderson, 2015). This can entail assisting them in their decision-making process and providing them with comfort, hope, and support, so love should be considered while deciding whether or not to seek euthanasia.

According to Christianity, suffering has a redeeming purpose and can provide a chance for spiritual growth and transformation. Christians believe that suffering may draw individuals closer to God, strengthen their faith, and help them better comprehend the human predicament (Anderson, 2015). In the instance of George, his suffering might be viewed as a chance to develop faith and find solace in God's love; hence, suffering should be considered while deciding whether or not to choose euthanasia. The Christian worldview is built on the expectation of the resurrection and eternal life. Christians believe that death is not the end of life and that life continues in heaven with God after death. This belief in the hereafter gives hope to individuals who are suffering and solace in the knowledge that they will be reunited with loved ones who have died; consequently, hope should be considered while deciding whether or not to choose euthanasia. Personal responsibility and decision-making are highly valued in the Christian worldview. Christians believe that people are accountable for their acts and must make decisions that are in accordance with God's will. In George's case, he would be accountable for making

decisions regarding his own life and well-being, but Christian values and principles should influence these decisions.

Options That Would Be Morally Justified In The Christian Worldview For George And

Why

Taking one's own life, including euthanasia, is typically regarded as ethically unacceptable in the Christian worldview. The sanctity of life is a core principle in the Christian faith, and suicide is viewed as a rejection of God's dominion and the gift of life (Anderson, 2015). Furthermore, Christians believe that suffering may have a redeeming purpose and that God can bring good out of the worst situations. However, it is crucial to emphasize that various Christian groups and people may view what is ethically justifiable in such situations differently. Some may claim that euthanasia is an act of kindness in specific circumstances, such as terminal disease or severe pain.

In George's situation, the Christian worldview highlights the significance of life preservation, compassion, and minimizing pain. As a result, the advantages of extending life must be balanced against the possibility of increased suffering and other care and support choices considered. From the Christian perspective, some morally permissible alternatives for George include obtaining palliative care to control his symptoms, relying on the support of family and community, and committing his life to God (Orr, 2001). Furthermore, some Christians may think about using pain management measures, such as hospice care, to reduce suffering while saving a life. With this, deciding whether or not to use euthanasia would need a thorough examination of moral and ethical principles, as well as a personal evaluation of the circumstances and one's ideas and values. In the Christian worldview, praying, seeking God's guidance and being guided by love and compassion for oneself and others is essential.

My Worldview, And Decision I Would Make If I Were In George's Situation

In George's case, the decision to seek euthanasia or any other alternative would be a personal and complex one influenced by several factors, including his values, beliefs, and ambitions, as well as the laws and cultural norms of his community. Ultimately, the decision should be taken after consulting with his family, medical team, and spiritual counselor, as well as his conscience and sense of what is right and best for him. In my worldview, today's technology allows people to live pain-free lives through the support of home-based care, palliative care, and hospice. George should not consider euthanasia as he has the chance of living up to 10 more years with medical management (Masrori & Van Damme, 2020).

Conclusion

The choice to choose euthanasia is a complicated and personal one influenced by a person's values, beliefs, and personal circumstances. In the example of George, a man with ALS, his decision would be influenced by his worldview, especially his Christian beliefs. The Christian worldview regards life as sacred, human dignity as important and resurrection as a possibility. It also acknowledges the world's fall of man, which causes misery, pain, and death. In light of these beliefs and considerations, George's choice on the value of his life and whether or not euthanasia is ethically permissible would be informed by the Christian worldview.

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