

March 2015

I want to kill myself :(  
Can you help me?

That depends...

Dear Friend,

In Canada, it *used* to be a criminal offense to help anyone kill themselves.

But last month, the Supreme Court of Canada removed the ban on physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia for a select group of Canadians. Rational adults with irremediable illnesses, diseases, or disabilities, who want to end their lives because of ‘intolerable’ physical or mental suffering, are now *eligible* to receive state sanctioned medical help to cut their lives short. Their condition doesn’t even have to be terminal.

***“I have the right to do anything,” you say – but not everything is beneficial. (1 Cor 6:12)***

People who applaud the Supreme Court decision have been deceived into thinking that “it’s my choice, and what I do to myself has nothing to do with anyone else.” We need to understand that legalizing assisted suicide is not about choice, empowerment or the right to choose a time and place of death, particularly for those suffering from severe illness. In reality, it looks quite different.

It’s conceivable that this decision could foster a distinction between lives deemed worth living and lives deemed extinguishable. Between lives worth preserving through efforts aimed at alleviating pain and suffering, and lives not worth wasting medical resources and funds on. Between the lives of those who are deemed socially productive members of society, and the lives of those who are deemed to have outlived their usefulness.

Allowing physician-assisted suicide for certain people sets up, in effect, a social hierarchy of human beings, with a tenuous line that divides individuals into two camps – where suicide prevention will be directed to those in one group while suicide assistance will be offered to those in the other. Those who naively believe that a line can be firmly and clearly fixed need only look at Belgium, where legalized euthanasia has already been extended to terminally ill children and prisoners serving long jail terms.

Far from increasing choices at the end of life, assisted suicide opens the door to grave abuses that are particularly heinous when forced upon the weak. Now that we have the constitutional right to choose medical assistance in dying, our society’s most vulnerable members – the elderly and the disabled – will experience the added anxiety that this “right” will be imposed on them, even if done subtly (“If I were you, ...”).

*over please...*

Consider this...

The decriminalization of physician-assisted suicide has now placed the onus on each of us, at some time in our lives, to justify our continued existence. This means having to validate the worth of our lives to others (relatives, healthcare workers, insurers, etc.). At the most vulnerable time of our lives, we will have to make a choice between life and death. And when the health care system offers you death, choosing to live will appear incredibly selfish, especially when our society has already judged us to be a burden on our loved ones and on the health care system. At that point, will our choice really be about easing our own suffering, or about sparing our loved ones from having to care for us and using up their inheritance?

*Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Rom 14:8)*

Sadly, many Canadians no longer hold the biblical viewpoint that all human life is sacrosanct, with inherent worth and dignity regardless of one's abilities or capabilities. Even professing Christians are embracing the idea that "my life is my own" and rejecting the belief that God, our life-giver, is the only one who can take it away. This mindset will definitely impact negatively on how we continue to practice our faith by "bearing one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)" through compassion ministries and charitable giving.

The Supreme Court has given the federal government until February 2016 to introduce laws governing when and how assisted suicide can be legally practiced. With your financial support, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada can be an integral part of the process to ensure:

- that stringent limits are put in place and scrupulously monitored and enforced;
- that the practice is not abused and the vulnerable are protected from being victimized; that the "right" to end one's life is only exercised by those who truly consent; those who are free of cognitive impairment, judgment-clouding depression or coercion and manipulation; and only after being fully informed of their diagnosis, prognosis, and available treatment options, including palliative care; and
- that medical practitioners will never be compelled to directly or indirectly participate in any procedure that violates their beliefs and conscience.

Your support will also enable the EFC to continue urging the government to work quickly to improve the state of palliative care in Canada so that those suffering are comforted and cared for, and that no one gets to the place where they would be so desperate as to request to be put to death. We believe no one would choose suicide if one's end of life were improved and natural death made pain-free.

Will you consider partnering with us as we work to ensure that the government takes every step necessary to preserve life and protect vulnerable persons in Canada? Your generous gift will enable us to make the collective Christian voice heard. Please help us bring biblical truths to bear as the government decides how to create and enforce boundaries on physician-assisted suicide in this country.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce Clemenger  
President

[Click here to DONATE!](#)

**TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE** click this button  
or call 1-866-302-3362 to donate today.