

Choose Life—Not Death

I call heaven and earth today to witness this day that against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord your God, heeding His voice, and holding fast to Him. For that will mean life for you.¹

To choose life, to defend life, and, above all, to fight for life, we must be able to distinguish life from death, its archenemy. We dare not confuse death, the curse that comes from Satan,² with life, the blessing that comes from God.³ For if we fail to respect such a fundamental distinction, we shall stand in grave danger of death and—what is worse—of violating the divine command that forbids all murder.⁴

Life is the substantial fact of the unity of soul and body, for man is made in the image and likeness of God, his Creator.⁵ Death, the fruit of sin,⁶ is, as is all evil, a void, the absence of life, the separation of soul and body. A person is entirely alive until dead, and each and every moment of his life is sacred because it is a gift from God.

Legally and medically, no one should “be declared dead unless the respiratory and circulatory systems and the entire brain have been destroyed.”⁷ “Brain death” is neither identical to nor equivalent to death, nor are any of the myriad and shifting brain-related criteria for death scientifically valid.⁸

The person condemned to death as “brain dead” is as alive as you or I and neither the enactment of unjust laws nor the decrees of unjust courts that deny his God-given right to life can alter that truth. “The signs of life in brain-dead patients...cannot be discounted in human terms, even if we have done so in public policy.”⁹

To defend life, we must defend truth, in particular, the truth that rationalizing epivalothanasia (imposed death) by falsely declaring the victim “dead” does not change the evil nature of this sin against God and crime against humanity, whether the victim is killed by the excision of vital organs¹⁰ or through medical abandonment. To oppose euthanasia, we must expose “brain death” and all such deadly deceptions that serve the father of lies and his Culture of Death.

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Endnotes

1. Deut. 30:19–20.

2. Wis. 2:24 (see also, Wis. 1:13).

3. Gen. 2:7.

4. Ex. 20:13

5. Gen. 1:27.

6. Gen. 2: 16–17.

7. Byrne, P.A., Quay, P.M., and Salsich, P. “Brain Death—The Patient, the Physician, and Society.” *Gonzaga Law Review*, 18(3), pp. 429-516 at 493, 1982/83.

8. Byrne, P.A., O’Reilly, S., and Quay, P.M. “Brain Death—An Opposing Viewpoint.” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 242(18), pp. 1985-90, 1979.

9. Youngner, S.J., and O’Toole, E. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 331(20), p. 1382, 1994.

10. *Evangelium Vitae*, No. 15.