

## Who Determines the Number of Our Days?

In order to gain some insight into the moral questions surrounding abortion and euthanasia, let's look at **two important truths** found in Scripture.

- **Truth #1: HUMAN BEINGS ARE CREATED BY GOD IN HIS IMAGE.**

- Human beings are created . . .

*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. <sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed body; . . .*  
Psalm 139:13-16a (New International Version)

“created” = Hebrew root = *qanah* = to craft or form

“my unformed body” = Hebrew, *golmi* = “my embryo”  
(Source: Dr. Walt Kaiser)

*“If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. <sup>23</sup>But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life . . .* Exodus 21:22-23 (NIV)

God considers that pre-term embryo to be sacred: Therefore, the volitional destruction of a developing human life is morally wrong.

- . . . in His Image

*Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27 (NIV)*

“image” and “likeness” = Hebrew, *selem* and *demut* = similar, but not identical

What helps a woman through a crisis pregnancy and therefore avoids abortion? Love and support.

## Three Situations that Raise Difficult Moral Questions

- When the life of the mother is threatened
- When rape is involved
- When serious fetal problems exist

- **Truth #2: THE NUMBER OF OUR DAYS IS DETERMINED BY GOD.**

*“We're all adrift in the same boat: too few days, too many troubles. We spring up like wildflowers in the desert and then wilt, transient as the shadow of a cloud. Do you occupy your time with such fragile wisps? Why even bother hauling me into court? There's nothing much to us to start with; how do you expect us to amount to anything? Mortals have a limited life span. You've already decided how long we'll live—you set the boundary and no one can cross it. Job 14:1-5 (The Message)*

*Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed. Job 14:5 (NIV)*

*. . . all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:16b (NIV)*

*“You shall not murder.” Exodus 20:13 (NIV)*

Euthanasia = Greek = *eu* = good and *thanatos* = death = “good death”

Euthanasia can be voluntarily or nonvoluntary, active or passive.

### The Debate

**Round One:** Withholding or withdrawing curative treatments for the dying person (Karen Ann Quinlan case, 1975; Nancy Cruzan case, 1990)

The intent isn't to kill the patient; its purpose is to avoid useless prolonging of the dying process.

**Round Two:** The right of active euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide (1997 Supreme Court Ruling)

There is a vast moral difference between killing someone and letting them die.

**Round Three:** “Futile Care Theory” = refusing care based on medical futility (Still to be decided)