

A Steward Over Life

“If she codes one more time, do you really want us to try and resuscitate her?” Faced with that sobering question, a distraught husband feels the hopelessness of the situation and consents to placing a “Do Not Resuscitate” order on his wife.

The minutes seem like hours as everyone waits for the inevitable. The husband thinks about the multiple illnesses his wife endured over the past 25 long years. Her medical chart of all the hospitalizations is inches thick.

Her husband recounts to the doctor about the time when his wife’s adrenal glands were removed and she almost died. When hearing this piece of lost history the doctor races into the emergency room and orders a different type of treatment. Within two weeks she is recovering at home. The medical staff at this hospital did not know about the removal. A change in her care meant a longer life.

A month or two later the husband asks his pastor if he would have been guilty of killing her with his authorization of the “Do Not Resuscitate” order.

It is God who says, “See now that I myself am he! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand.” (Deuteronomy 32:39)

God gives human life to us as something to be cared for. We are stewards over it. We recognize that life is a blessing which is to be protected and nurtured. Can we kill human life? Yes, only if God allows it. The reality is that death results from sin in the world. The fact that we are instruments of death does not remove the providence of God who uses our actions, whether good or bad, to accomplish His purpose.

Regarding our stewardship over human life, we are not to kill (Genesis 9:6). To do so usurps God’s authority. As Martin Luther put it, we are to protect and defend human life.

When we think of stewardship we often think of the way in which we manage our money or handle our resources and assets. As children of God we are stewards over all things given to us by God. We care for our environment, the welfare of others, and God’s gift of human life.

In the course of our stewardship we make decisions. We consider all of the information we have at our disposal and we seek to prayerfully reach not just a “right” decision but a God-pleasing one. God is the Master of life. We care for life for Him.

Sometimes we make all the right decisions, yet the person dies. God’s will be done. Sometimes we don’t have the right facts, and we make wrong decisions. God’s will still be done. He promises to work all things for our good. It is our heart that first should be devoted to His will. It is our faith that trusts that all outcomes serve a good purpose.

For additional information and resources in dealing with this life topic, visit the Christian Life Resources website at www.ChristianLifeResources.com or call us at 1-800-729-9535.