

# Life Support

David Feddes

<sup>7</sup> For none of us lives to himself alone  
and none of us dies to himself alone.

<sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord; and if  
we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether  
we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For this very reason, Christ died and  
returned to life so that he might be the  
Lord of both the dead and the living.

# Life support

- Life support saves many people who would have died without it.
- Life support hurts many people and prolongs process of dying.
- Life support forces us to deal with hard questions.

# Longing to die

Why is light given to those in misery,  
and life to the bitter of soul, to those  
who long for death that does not  
come? ... What I feared has come  
upon me; what I dreaded has  
happened to me. (Job 3:20-25)

# Distress

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak... I am forgotten as though I were dead. (Ps 31:9-10, 12)



# In your hands

Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
redeem me, O LORD, the God of  
truth... I trust in you, O Lord; I say,  
“You are my God.” My times are in  
your hands... save me in your  
unfailing love. (Psalm 31:5, 14-16)

# Don't kill

- **Active killing** is murder.  
~~Euthanasia, mercy killing~~  
~~Physician-assisted suicide~~
- **Letting die** isn't always wrong.  
Sometimes it's okay to refuse life support and accept natural death.

# Life worth living

Instead of making it easier for people with disabilities to die, I would like our society to make it easier for them to live. (Joni Eareckson Tada)





# Life and death

- Life is a sacred gift.
- God rules life and death.
- There is a time to die.
- Love is merciful and kind.
- Jesus' life defeats death.

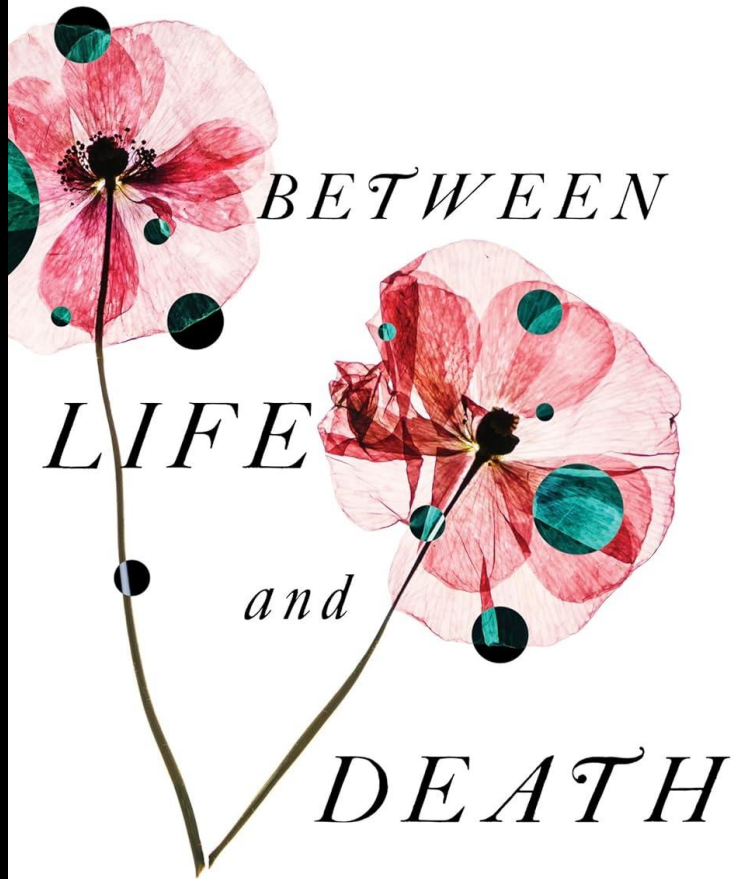
# Problems

- More than 70% want to die at home.
- Only 20% do; most die in institutions.
- Hospice care often gives longer life.
- Only 20% choose hospice care.
- Only 26% have advance directive.
- Near death, most can't state wishes.

# Get ready

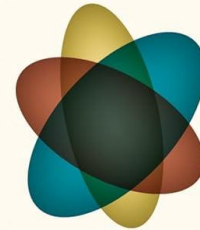
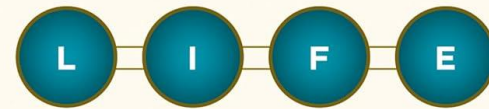
- Prepare before the need arises.
- Discuss honestly with loved ones.
- Create health care directive.
- Appoint health care agent(s).
- Aim to save life, not prolong death.

KATHRYN BUTLER, MD



A GOSPEL-CENTERED GUIDE TO  
END-OF-LIFE MEDICAL CARE

# BIOETHICS AND THE CHRISTIAN



*A Guide to Making Difficult Decisions*

**DAVID VANDRUNEN**

# Life support

- CPR
- Defibrillation
- Ventilation
- Tube feed
- Transfusion
- Dialysis
- Pressors
- Catheter
- Surgery
- Pain relief



# Ready to die

- Face reality of death
- Arrange to bless heirs
- Love and reconcile
- Make your time count
- Prepare for eternity

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