

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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Euthanasia That Pleases God

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You may have had one of two responses as you read the title above. First, you may have been mildly curious to see if this is a medical article. This is definitely not the case. My wife was the science major in college, and I would never be confused for a scientist. Secondly, you have probably seen my scary-looking picture above for many weeks and wondered if it would ever be put to death. While that does need to happen, I would like to discuss another form of euthanasia— one that God Himself advocates.

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5, NIV).

You may be wondering, “What in the world does that verse have to do with euthanasia”? Literally from the Greek, euthanasia means “good death.” To us the term has many uses and some moral and societal implications. Unfortunately, people are sometimes euthanized. The same is done to an animal when it is sick or crippled.

It is not my intention to expand upon those themes here. God hates sin in a Christian’s life, but He does not want the Christian to be put to death. He wants sin to be put to death. Which sins? The list could include many more than are listed in the above verse, but one that is given special attention (and should require special attention in our lives) is greed.

Greed is equated with idolatry in this verse. Greed is a cancer in the life of a Christian. It starts off as a simple desire, but grows and begins to kill off your soul. Greed is fueled by the following thoughts:

- God is not worthy enough to be pursued.
- God does not give me enough to be happy.
- I will find security and happiness in money and possessions.

Again, God does not want the Christian to be put to death. In this instance, he wants the sin of greed to be put to death in your life. The cancer must be stopped, or it will consume your entire body leading to your destruction.

Cancer is not something that you can feel. You need objective tests to determine if you have it or not. Likewise, you may not feel greedy, but let’s take a quick test:

- Does your income drive your standard of living or does your standard of living drive your income?
- Your tax return is done. Will you give more this year than last to ministry?

If you knew that you had cancer, and you knew that it could be cured, what would you do? Would you receive treatments and have it removed? Of course you would. Greed can also be cured: by putting on generosity. Will you choose to put to death the greed in your life, or will you choose to let it consume you? The answer lies in your actions.

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