



DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today
rooted in Jesus' compassion

life issues

self defense

Synod issues

political parties

...

capital punishment

cultural expressions of faith



DELICATE DISCUSSIONS, PART II

reflecting on our world today
rooted in Jesus' compassion

Life Issues



Life Issues: Middle

- starting point: God's *purpose* for mankind
 - Genesis 1:28: "fill the earth and subdue it"
 - Deuteronomy 6:5: "love the Lord your God..."
 - Leviticus 19:18: "love your neighbor as yourself"
 - Micah 6:8: "to do justice, and to love kindness..."
 - 1 Timothy 3:1: "desires all people to be saved"
 - Matthew 28:19: "disciple all nations"



Life Issues: Middle

- starting point: God's *priority* for mankind
 - temporal life or eternal life?
 - The Gospel is not that Jesus died so that your temporal life could be good!
 - The Gospel is that Jesus died to pay for your sins so that by faith you will be saved and have eternal life!
 - Matthew 6:25-34



Life Issues: Middle

- the family
 - All government and authority in society flows from the role and authority of parents over their children.
 - The purpose of families is not only to bear children and contribute to society but to rear godly children.



Life Issues: Middle

- So what does this mean for...
 - healthcare
 - universal right (at all costs)?
 - untenable: not enough resources, knowledge, etc.; someone has to decide who lives and dies
 - Physical death does not equal spiritual damnation, but we often treat them the same.
 - How can we as disciples of Jesus serve in this arena?

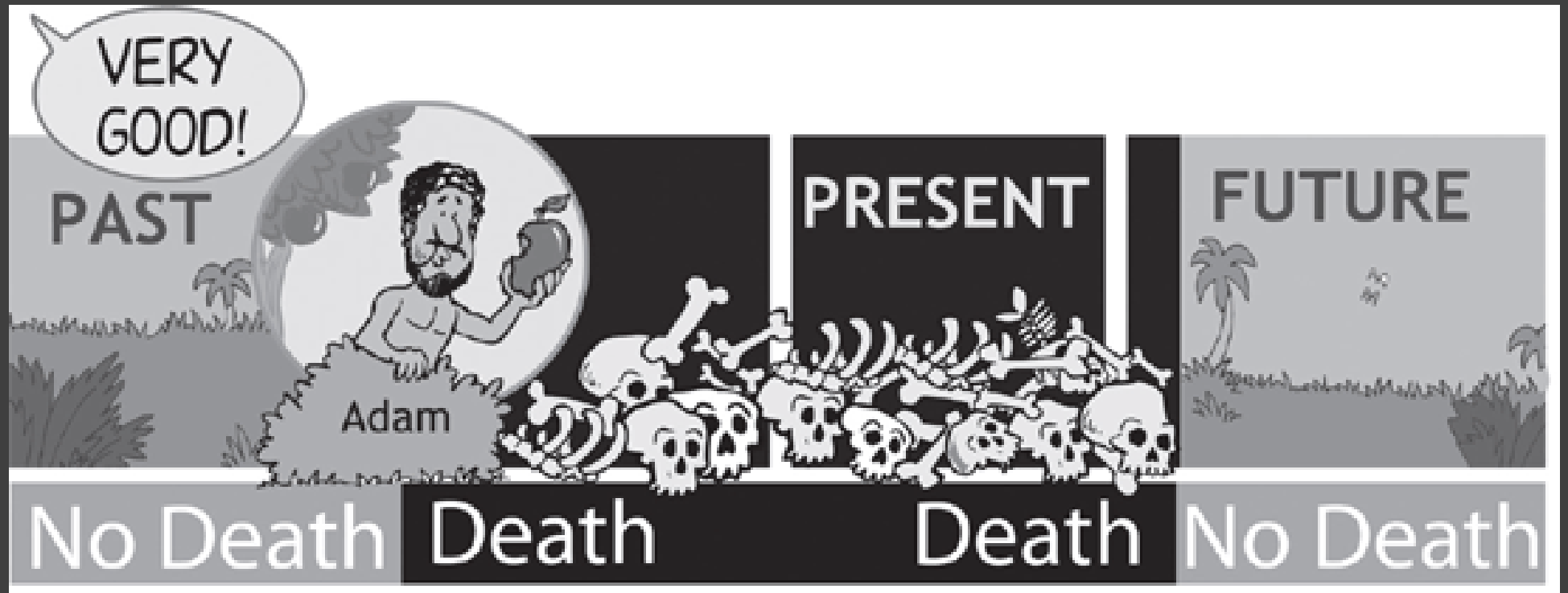


Life Issues: End

- starting point: death, mankind, & God
 - Genesis 2:17: “...in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
 - Romans 5:12 (ff.): “...death through sin...”
 - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26: “...in Christ shall all be made alive. ... The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”
 - Revelation 20:14: “Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire...”
 - Exodus 20:13: “You shall not murder.”

Life Issues: End

- starting point: death, mankind, & God



© Answers in Genesis



Life Issues: End

- Q&A
 - Why is there death? sin
 - Whom do we fear, love, and trust during life *and* at our death? God
 - Who is in charge of life *and* death? God
 - Is everyone who dies condemned eternally? no!
 - Is everyone who dies saved eternally? no!



Life Issues: End

- Q&A
 - Should Christians fear death? no
 - Does that mean dying is good? no
 - Do we have to welcome dying? no
 - May we welcome death? yes, as long as that doesn't mean causing it intentionally



Life Issues: End

- So what does this mean for...
 - euthanasia
 - a.k.a. dying with dignity
 - = “good death” (a total misnomer)
 - = murder; taking death into our own hands without God’s permission
 - It might *feel* compassionate but it is contrary to God’s will, so we trust and obey him.



Life Issues: End

- So what does this mean for...
 - terminal diagnosis
 - general rule (?): We work to sustain life while recognizing that this is not always possible (humanly speaking).
 - As God's children by faith, we can be confident of what comes next and trust both our living and our dying to him.



Life Issues: End

- So what does this mean for...
 - terminal diagnosis
 - I'm not certain "quality of life" is the final factor.
 - We pray for discernment and peace.
 - Our witness in our death is just as important as our witness throughout our life.



Life Issues: End

- separation of body/soul
 - not measurable but recognizable (?)
 - not necessarily same as not breathing, no heartbeat, no brain activity (?)
 - We should tread lightly and respectfully.



Life Issues: End

- blessed death
 - Psalm 116:15: “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”
 - Revelation 14:13: “... Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ...”



Life Issues: End

- required
 - humility before God
 - repentance
 - Death is the ultimate “reminder” of our sinfulness.
- trust

