

***“Choose life that it may be well with you—
you and your children.”***

***- Deuteronomy 30:19
International Standard Version***

The Role of Changing Technology in End of Life Issues: A Christian Response

End of Life issues touch us all - eventually.

During this conference we will concentrate on issues involving advancing and changing technology and how it has affected cultural attitudes and Christian response to end of life issues.

Sitting at the bedside of a dying spouse, relative or friend, hearing the quiet hum of “machines” supplying oxygen, fluids and meds, describes a situation that many have experienced. Is dying with dignity being forestalled with the introduction of “smarter and smarter technology” signified by the ever-present devices that promise extending life, but at what cost?

Conversely, the compassionate movement of Hospice, providing spiritual and physical care, has weakened the inappropriate use of technology to hasten death. Hospice care not only alleviates the dying person’s physical and mental pain but relieves the anxiety and concern of loved ones.

The rapid developments in technology however, have caught many physicians, pastors, theologians, health care workers and others by surprise. Procedures that were impossible a decade or two ago are commonly followed today, for example, unnecessary surgeries, Resuscitation (CPR) which is unwarranted in some dying patients, artificially sustaining life when there is no hope for the patient’s survival, and others.

“More people have been killed in this [20th] century by tenderhearted souls than by cruel barbarians in all the other centuries put together.”

***- From The Thanatos Syndrome by Walker Percy
Spoken by the character, Father Smith.***

Who Should Attend This Conference?

ITEST welcomes health care professionals: administrators, hospice personnel, pastoral care advocates, nurses, physicians, deacons, priests and women and men religious to attend this conference. Two Professional Development Hours may be earned by attending.

End of Life Issues Presentations

Dr. Kimbell Kornu, MD, MAR

***The Good Death: Liturgy of the Church or
Liturgy of Medical Technology?***

Has the rise of medical technology made it easier or harder to die? Perhaps the question should be reframed: how has medical technology changed how we die? How has technology changed our understanding of the nature of death? Through a brief history of the good death in the Western tradition, we will see how pre-modern dying was culturally under the purview of faith and the liturgies of the Church with medicine as a practice of charity. Then in the modern period, the relationship between faith and medicine becomes inverted such that dying comes under the domain of medicine and its associated technologies.

Father Charles Bouchard, OP, S.T.D.

***Science and the Soul: Can We Recover
the Spiritual Dimension of Death?***

Michel Foucault’s landmark work *The Birth of the Clinic* describes how modern science changed the way we see medicine and led to today’s high technological approach to health care. No one questions the value of these technological advances, but from the patient’s perspective, they sometimes seem slightly out of control.

As we look back to the ancient tradition of the “happy death” and the *Ars Moriendi* literature, we must ask whether our technological gains resulted in the loss of some important spiritual values. Is it possible for us to recover them today?

***“In my perspective death of the aged is part
of the normal cycle of birth, life, and death
that God has planned for mankind.”***

***- John A. Blaschke, MD, (Age 96)
Rheumatologist and Emeritus
Clinical Professor of Medicine
Oklahoma University***

ITEST Conference Registration Form October 22, 2016

Please Print Clearly

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City - State - Zip _____

Phone # _____

Cell # _____

E-mail Address _____

Conference Fees:

- Early Bird** By 9/30/16 \$125.00
 After 9/30/16 \$150.00

*Group rates are available upon request
(3 or more)*

Fees include: admission, lunch, conference materials, professionally edited video and audio recordings of the conference.

Two Professional Development Hours (PDHs) awarded for participating in the conference.

Payment:

- Check Enclosed - Payable to: **ITEST**
 Mastercard Visa **only**

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