

Why This Matters: A Personal Reflection & Invitation

Inbox x

Whitney King, CLADC

to me ▾

Tue, Apr 23, 10:11AM (2 days ago)

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FAITH & LAW *lecture*

Dear Pamela,

This Friday evening, Christian Legal Aid of DC is hosting [a conversation about making end-of-life medical decisions](#). I've shared in earlier emails how this topic connects to questions about the law, about what is just and ethical, and how we must look to our faith to inform us as we grapple with these questions. Today I'd like to share some of the ways this has hit home for me personally over the last year.

My mom has managed serious chronic illnesses for as long as I can remember. She has done so with tremendous grace and faith; and in a way, my family was prepared to navigate her health challenges. What we did not expect was my father's sudden cancer diagnosis.

Of course, he wasn't alone. Within months, other family members and friends were getting their own diagnoses, facing unexpected surgeries and treatments. While sickness and the prospect of death were not new or unique to my family, the wave of bad news within my own inner circle interrupted comfortable illusions – the illusion that we have time and control, the illusion that difficult choices are "out there" and a long way off.

Even though we had clients calling CLADC every week for help with the legal implications of these circumstances, I had put off thinking about these things for myself.

While my parents are doing well now, our situation over the last year prompted us to continue conversations about end-of-life decisions that we'd started, but never really finished. I also realized that this wasn't just about preparing for someone else's future, but that I needed to consider the decisions to be made at the end of my own life.

I'm increasingly convinced that prayerfully considering our own frailty and physical death is an important way that we can love God and love others. **We live out our love for God when we trust him to guide us through the valley of the shadow of death, and we live out our love for others when we take the time to talk with them about the decisions we may ask them to make one day on our behalf.**

I don't have all of the answers yet, but reading Dr. Butler's book, [*Between Life and Death: A Gospel-Centered Guide to End-of-Life Medical Care*](#), was an incredibly helpful step, and my prayer is that this year's Faith & Law Lecture will be a helpful step for you too.

I hope you'll join me this Friday to hear from Dr. Butler and Joseph Thigpen, a local pastor from Capitol Hill Baptist Church. Please consider this a personal invitation to [register here](#) today, and to let others know about this opportunity as well.

Gratefully,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Whitney King".

Whitney King
Executive Director

www.christianlegalaid-dc.org