

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Is it all right to donate one's organs after death?

Intro: We live in an age where science has made some amazing progress. Some very good and some not so good. Such as abortion, euthanasia, infanticide which are the vial use of knowledge to name a few. The cure for some of the biblical deceases for which there were none in biblical history, such as leprosy, consumption, blindness, unless God directly intervened. We just heard on the news the other day that UVM med center has just installed a new piece of equipment lauded to heal some forms of cancer. One wonders why a hospital would in one sense spend and or research at great expense to heal someone, and in another part have no compunction about killing an innocent, defenseless child. Abortion is a national blight on this generation and nation, as well as hypocritical to the doctors Hippocratic Oath. Because America is trend speedily to pre-war Germany as well as during thar war, godliness and morality are no longer a determining factor in life and death for far to many.

This begs the question we posed in the beginning, **'Is it all right to donate one's organs after death?'** Perhaps another question is about cremation versus burial? Which we might touch briefly. So, what does God have to say about this and if so, where int the Bible can we find these answers.

Prayer.**I. The Bible sounds off! Or does it?**

- A. It does appear that the Bible is ____ on the question of organ donations, we do find that God has an _____ towards the body of Believers, both alive and dead.
1. What we do have that is certain, is that God indicates that we honor the bodies of the deceased.
 2. Joseph's body was preserved with the _____ and purpose of being buried in Shechem in the plot where Jacob had purchased and been buried. – **Joshua 24:32.**
 3. Concerning Joseph's body being treated following his death – **Genesis 50:26.**
 4. Though embalming a body was and Egyptian thing, many Eastern societies had some form or burial preparation that was important and ceremonially done. (After washing Jesus, Joseph and Nicodemus wrapped his body carefully in linens, according to Jewish practices of the time. Each of his limbs was wrapped and his entire body was encircled in a shawl. The linen was of good quality, and roughly 75 pounds of spices were used to soak the cloth and anoint the body. **(Luke 23:21 – 24:1)**)

5. Moses' body was buried by ___ on Mount Nebo once again pointing to God's preference for burial of the body, as opposed to burning the body. **Deuteronomy 34:5 – 6.**
 - a. Many non-Christian cultures who burned the bodies believed they were releasing the _____ and it was a part of their belief system.
 - b. In other words it was a religious rite & ceremony among the Canaanites for example.
6. As I stated earlier, Jesus' body was prepared for burial in accordance with Jewish _____, with no indication that God was some how displeased concerning this method.
7. In contrast to all this, in **2 Kings 23:16** we see Josiah wanting to show _____ for the false prophets who were dead, he burned their bones – **23:13 – 19.**

B. What does this have to do with donating one's organs?

1. The principle is this, the human body even in death is to be _____ in such a fashion that it is honored and God is glorified.
2. Our bodies _____ to God and are considered temples of the Holy Ghost and our lives totally surrendered to God with a willingness on our part to sacrifice our lives if called upon to do so – **John 15:13.**
3. When we combine these verses, we can come to a reasonable understanding that it is not _____ to the Lord to donate one's organs to allow another to see or continue living.
4. Should the recipient be _____, they may have more time to hear the Gospel and come to a saving faith in the person of Christ.

C. A natural question arises, which is whether or not we should be _____ to donate our Organs, seeing they could be used to save another person's life?

1. **Romans 14:5** - while it would not be wrong to do so, it is also not wrong to choose not to.
2. In this fallen world, greed and wealth are the compelling forces behind selling organs for profit to the highest bidders. Or to declare someone to be dead for the purpose of harvesting their organs.
3. This happens more so in third world countries where the poor or prisoners are seen as an opportunity for wealth, but it has taken place here in America as well from some un reputable funeral homes or abortion sites.
4. As the Redeemed of the Lord, there is no sense that we need our organs in our eternally uncorruptible and immortal bodies. So, it appears it is a matter of one's personal comfort with organ donation, as cremation, as a practice, I have always felt it was more of a heathen thing associated with false doctrine or beliefs.