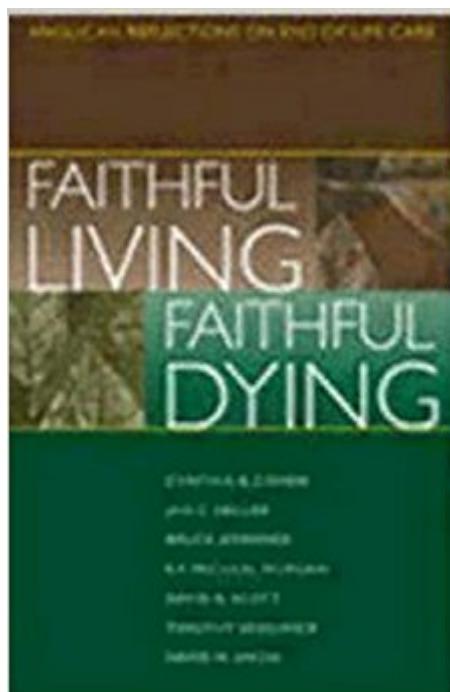


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# Faithful Living, Faithful Dying: Anglican Reflections On End Of Life Care



## **Synopsis**

An important examination of the theological, spiritual and ethical issues surrounding death. What do faithful living and faithful dying mean as we near life's end? With all the technology and choices available to us today, making decisions about the end of life grows ever more difficult. As a result of all the theological and ethical issues that have arisen around the dying process in recent years, the 72nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church created a task force to study and report on these concerns. This is the report of the End-of-Life Task Force. In it, the Task Force responds to the broad range of theological, ethical, pastoral and policy issues that are generated by the need to provide loving and fitting care at the end of life. Intended as a teaching document, *Faithful Living, Faithful Dying* will be useful as a discussion tool for the church, for individuals facing difficult decisions, for professionals, such as clergy and health care providers, and for those who make public policy.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING; large type edition edition (February 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0819218308

ISBN-13: 978-0819218308

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #416,794 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Hospice Care #418 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Medical Ethics #660 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Eschatology

## **Customer Reviews**

This book is about living and dying faithfully and told from an Anglican perspective. For those of you who don't know, Anglicans are Episcopalians in the U. S. It was recommended to me by someone in my Old Testament class. The reason I bought the book is because there is a liturgy in the back which can be used when removing life support from someone who will pass away not immediately, but soon. There is a service for the Burial of the Dead in the Book of Common Prayer and also for Ministration at the Time of Death. The liturgy in this book would cover the situation when removing life support will lead to death, but not instantly. I bought it because there is such a situation in my

family and felt having some prayers and readings at the time would give comfort.

This book was excellent. It gives a great insight into the beliefs of the Anglican Faith regarding the End of Life Care, and what we, as Anglicans, can do. I knew before I read the book, that the Church allowed us to forgo Life Support Measures, and Extraordinary measures including refusing artificial Nutrition and Hydration. This book is a great resource for any member of the Anglican Faith (Episcopal of Church of England, or member of the Anglican Community).

Gave me the information I was looking for and more

Although specifically Anglican in perspective, the early chapters offer an understanding of death and its place in human life--including theologically appropriate uses of medical treatment/resources--that will be of value to all Christians (and others interested in what religious traditions have to say). After discussions of mourning, the church's role, and social policy issues like access to health care and the importance of palliative care, the book provides several very helpful resources for use in local parishes. This book by a distinguished panel of clergy, ethicists, physicians, and attorneys (not to imply that any of those categories excludes any of the others!) can serve as a useful resource for all who want to make the end of life a more faithful experience, both for themselves and for others.

This book, put together by a panel is mighty dry reading - kinda like unbuttered popcorn. Alas, that's a common problem with a report or study put together by a committee, no evidence that any of the panelists has a flair for writing. As with the other reviewers to date, I feel the book provides much needed help on the issue of one's faith on facing and addressing death; especially death under trying circumstances--life support, hospice care. I'd have found it helpful if there'd been some discussion on coping with the death of youth or young children (grief issues are especially critical) and the matter of a child dying before elderly parents, again an especially hard grief issue and test of faith.

When confronted by potentially controversial ethical issues, such as those surrounding death and dying, churches rarely distinguish themselves. There are a number of pitfalls. Knowing that they cannot please anyone, they may simply remain silent, abdicating their responsibility to provide moral guidance. Worse, they may make pious-sounding, but vague, pronouncements that address issues without actually saying anything. When they take clear positions, they may have a hard time making a

convincing connection to their own tradition. This work avoids all those pitfalls. The Episcopal Church's End of Life Task Force addresses issues such as assisted suicide clearly and concisely even as they respect the human anguish and moral ambiguities involved.

This is a really useful book for those who are approaching death and those who are critically ill and don't know what the outcome will be. I'm not Episcopalian, but felt really supported in terms of ethical and spiritual help when my father was dying and I read it.

A must have for every Faith Commujnity Nurse and hopefully every nurse. What a treasure

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