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## Right to Live: The Right to Die (Book Review)

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**The Right to Live: The Right to Die** by C. Everett Koop, M.D., Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, \$2.95, 124 pages. Reviewed by E. L. Hebden Taylor, Associate Professor of Sociology.

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The author of this book is surgeon-in-chief at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and professor of pediatric surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Koop is thus eminently qualified to speak upon the two subjects which are the concern of his book, namely abortion and euthanasia.

We thank God for having raised up a Christian doctor and surgeon willing to stick his professional neck out for the sake of the teaching of God's Word and Law forbidding both abortion and euthanasia. In his book Dr. Koop provides God's people with plenty of arguments with which to confound the advocates of both abortion and euthanasia. Too often, amateurs have spoken upon these two issues and have brought their cause into disrepute. Now they have superb arguments to use in the continuing struggle to restore our nation to Scriptural principles.

The book examines current attitudes and trends from several perspectives: medical, personal, social, and theological. Dr. Koop turns the spotlight of a keen Christian conscience upon the Supreme Court ruling on abortion and upon the Karen Quinlan case, evaluating their influence upon the future of every American.

Dr. Koop predicts the following consequences of the Supreme Court decision in favor of abortion on demand: 1) It will make the law look ridiculous; 2) The liberty given to women to abort their fetuses will lead to license in other areas, such as giving relatives the right to choose whether a person should be allowed to die; 3) The right to die will lead to the right to kill in mercy; 4) It will contribute to the process of the depersonalization and dehumanization of our society; 5) There has been and will continue to be an enormous increase in the number of abortions. (Since January 1973 there have been over 3,000,000.) 6) It will lead to greater sexual promiscuity especially among young people; 7) Newborn infants who are not perfect will be the next target for

killing; and 8) Abortion will be completely in the hands of the illegal abortionists and clinics.

Koop warns us that if the Supreme Court's decision on abortion is not reversed by a constitutional amendment which is pro-life, "one can predict without question that the Supreme Court will soon also make euthanasia legal. It is with the latter subject that Koop deals in the second half of his book. This volume should be in the hands of every concerned Christian citizen of this country, to be read and acted upon.

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**Music in the Christian Community**, by Dale Topp, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1976, 205 pages, \$4.95. Reviewed by Clarence Doornbos, Instructor in Music.

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Music is often a controversial subject in the Christian community. Decisions regarding music are too often made subjectively with little regard for principles or guidelines of Biblical direction. Dale Topp has made a valuable contribution to the Christian community in this book, which provides helpful information on a wide variety of music-related situations.

The author takes neither an elitist approach, condemning all "inferior" music, nor a position which stresses the lowest common denominator. Rather, he proposes a realistic approach to music, which stresses the need for standards while respecting the demands of the situation and the needs of the people. Indeed, one of the points of emphasis in the book is that music should be appropriate. What is appropriate for a worship service may not necessarily be appropriate for a hymn-sing, a classroom, or a campfire sing.

The book repeatedly reminds Christians to go to Scripture for guidelines. The author logically builds his case for using a wide variety of quality worship music, but he also issues a call for Christian stewardship in selecting and using music in non-worship situations. Topp recognizes that God has given talents to musicians to produce everything from symphonic music to popular, rock, and jazz. The Christian is told to apply Biblical guidelines to help discern what is good and what is not good in each area. The author says that it is not right to condemn all rock any more than it would be right to assume that all orchestral