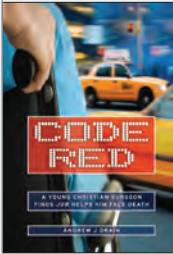


## Code Red

Andrew J Drain

ISBN 9780906747407, CMF, 2010, £3 from CMF

How would you react knowing that you only had a few more months to live? Andrew J Drain, a cardiothoracic surgeon at the peak of his career, experiences a role reversal after he is diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. One day he was a doctor making a living treating the dying, the next he was a patient struggling to live. In an effortless manner, he aptly weaves together Job's story with



his own, delving into some of our most basic questions about suffering.

Although he knows his death is imminent, he has a strong confidence that his suffering is of the Lord's permission and that God is in control of his suffering. This gives hope to those who are suffering not just from chronic illness but from other conditions – pointing to the ultimate sufferer who has been there before us and will be with us through it all.

*Code Red* is not all sombre though; it is presented with creative and animated storytelling, taking us on a journey from the Bronx to Northern Ireland, and even on a music tour for the musical aficionados!

I highly recommend this short, rewarding book not just for those with chronic illness, but for medical practitioners, or anyone with questions on Job and suffering in general 'pointing to the hope of the gospel in the midst of despair'. ■

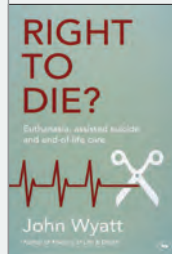
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## Right to Die

John Wyatt

ISBN 9781783593866, IVP, 2015, £7 from CMF

An initial survey of recent UK and world events sets the scene for a discussion of euthanasia, assisted suicide and end of life care. A particular strength is the perspective on recent events, laying out the ideas and arguments that have led to such pressure to legalise assisted suicide in the UK and elsewhere.



'Compassion' and 'autonomy' are the two major arguments used to promote euthanasia. The author

not only describes these, but seems to have really wrestled with them, putting these arguments clearly and empathetically. There is no doubt that he has given them a fair hearing; he's also considered the reasons why Christians have sometimes advanced these arguments.

Even so, the case against assisted suicide is made clearly. Biblical arguments around the image of God and the value of human life are made, and will be familiar to many readers. Particularly powerful points are made about human dependency; dependency is *part* of God's design, not a distortion of it. The place of suffering in God's plan is also considered: 'Suffering is not to be sought, but there are times when it should, at least to some degree, be accepted'.

The book ends by looking at medical and legal factors, and palliative care. This work is a good place to start looking at this issue, particularly for the layperson or a healthcare student new to the topic; the author's compassion is obvious throughout, and the basic arguments are well covered. More senior readers might want to make use of the extensive reference list to delve deeper into the topic. ■

**Laurence Crutchlow** is CMF Associate Head of Student Ministries and a GP in London