**What is Death?**

“The absence of life”

“The permanent end of all life functions in an organism or part of an organism”

“Cessation of all vital functions without the capability of resuscitation”

“The irreversible loss of all brain function”

**Karen Ann Quinlan**

1975; mixed alcohol & tranquilizers; passed out; aspirated vomit

“persistent vegetative state”

Parents fought to remove life support

After removing support, she lived another 10 years

**Terry Schindler-Schiavo**

1990; K deficiency; coma

Woke a few weeks late in a “locked state”

Receives food and water via gastic feeding tube

In 1998 Terri’s husband asked to have the food tube removed; parents fought; decided in favor of husband last week

**Demographics**

- Changing demographics

- Tipping points: In 2005, the overall population of adults over 65 will overtake the number of kids aged 0 to 4.

- Adult Aged 60+
- Children Aged 0-4

**Control of Death**

- Euthanasia

- 0-11 yrs
- Some
- College
- 4+ years
- College
- HS graduate

**Fundamentalists**

- Strong
- Moderate
- Minimal

**Catholics**

- Strong
- Moderate
- Minimal

**Moderate Protestants**

- Strong
- Moderate
- Minimal

**Liberal Protestants**

- Strong
- Moderate
- Minimal

- [NORC, 1977-94; General Social Surveys Combined]
**Worldwide Life Expectancy Rates (in yrs)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andorra</td>
<td>83.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macau</td>
<td>81.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Marino</td>
<td>81.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>80.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>80.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* US life expectancy = 78.16 years
** UK life expectancy = 77.14 years