

Suicide a Real Problem

Romans 5:2-5; 2 Corinthians 1:10

I personally am alarmed at the rate of suicides in our world. It's among the young, the middle aged, and now the elderly. Churches are not exempt from this growing problem, but yet many stick their head in the sand as if it doesn't exist – or it couldn't happen among our people.

Suicide is a grave sin equivalent to murder (Exodus 20:13; 21:23), but it can be forgiven like any other sin. And Scripture says clearly that those redeemed by God have been forgiven for all their sins – past, present, and future (Colossians 2:13-14). Paul says in Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

So if a true Christian would commit suicide in a time of extreme weakness, he or she would be received into heaven (Jude 24). But, I would question the faith of those who take their lives or even consider it seriously – it may well be that they have never been truly saved.

I say that because God's children are defined repeatedly in Scripture as those who have hope (Acts 24:15; Romans 5:2-5, 8:24; 2 Corinthians 1:10, etc.) and purpose in life (Luke 9:23-25; Romans 8:28; Colossians 1:29). And those who think of committing suicide do so because they have neither hope nor purpose in their lives.

Furthermore, one who repeatedly considers suicide is practicing sin in his heart (Proverbs 23:7), and I John 3:9 teaches that no one who is born of God practices sin.

And finally, suicide is often the ultimate evidence of a heart that rejects the lordship of Jesus Christ, because it is an act where the sinner is taking his life into his own hands completely rather than submitting to God's will for it. Surely many of those who have taken their lives will hear those horrifying words from the Lord Jesus at the judgment "... I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:23).

So though it may be possible for a true believer to commit suicide, I personally believe that is an unusual occurrence – this is not normal. Therefore, if you know of anyone considering suicide, you should challenge them above all to examine themselves to see whether he or she is in the faith (II Corinthians 13:5).

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