

“The Sin of Suicide”
I Samuel 31:1-6

Introduction: Although suicide is a topic that no one wants to deal with, we better start talking about it. We live in a messed up world with people that do not know how to cast their burdens on the Lord. Depression, anxiety, hopelessness, health problems, financial crisis, and drug abuse is becoming more prevalent in our day. Satan has a remedy for those suffering from these problems, and that is suicide. It is true now, and in the days ahead. Revelation 9:6

1. Over 36,000 people in the United States die by suicide every year.
2. Every day, approximately 99 Americans take their own life.
3. A person dies by suicide about every 15 minutes in the United States.
4. There are an estimated 8-25 attempted suicides for every suicide death.
5. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death for adults between the ages of 18 and 65 years in the United States. Currently, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States.
6. There are four male suicides for every female suicide, but three times as many females as males attempt suicide.
7. Between 20 and 50 percent of people who kill themselves had previously attempted suicide. Those who have made serious suicide attempts are at a much higher risk for actually taking their lives.
8. Fifty to 75 percent of all suicides give some warning of their intentions to a friend or family member.
9. Firearms are used in more suicides than homicides. Death by firearms is the fastest growing method of suicide. Firearms account for 50 percent of all suicides.

Body: Suicide is the direct result of someone feeling trapped with no way out. It is a sense of hopelessness with no reason or purpose to live. However, what does the Bible have to say about suicide?

I. The Allegations About Suicide

A. Suicide is murder.

1. There are some preachers that feel that suicide is murder.
2. This is not true. According to Noah Webster, murder means, “To kill a human being with premeditated malice. The act of unlawfully killing a human being with premeditated malice, by a person of sound mind. To constitute murder in law, the person killing another must be of sound mind or in possession of his reason, and the act must be done with malicious forethought.”
3. Suicide is taking your own life, not another’s life.

B. If anyone commits suicide, they will automatically go to hell.

1. Some preachers feel that if anyone commits suicide that they will not go to heaven. They use Revelation 21:8 and Revelation 22:15 to prove this point.
2. It has already been pointed out that suicide is not murder.
3. Some feel that a child of God cannot commit suicide. What about Buster Seaton? What about Rudy Smith’s wife? Some feel that they were never saved. What about Romans 8:39? (The eternal security of the believer)

II. The Actuality About Suicide

- A. People who have survived suicide attempts have reported wanting not so much to die as to stop living, a strange dichotomy but a valid one nevertheless. [Death is scary. People pay thousands of dollars to stay alive.] If some in-between state existed, some other alternative to death, I suspect many suicidal people would take it.
- B. Suicide is someone with a real problem. Notice some suicide notes left behind:
 - 1. Kurt Cobain—April 8, 1994—Frances and Courtney, I'll be at your altar. Please keep going Courtney, for Frances for her life will be so much happier without me. I LOVE YOU. I LOVE YOU. [Shotgun wound to the head—The last years of his life he struggled with heroin addiction, illness, and depression]
 - 2. Charlotte Perkins Gilman—August 17, 1935— When all usefulness is over, when one is assured of an unavoidable and imminent death, it is the simplest of human rights to choose a quick and easy death in place of a slow and horrible one. (She “chose chloroform over cancer”.)
 - 3. Freddie Prinze—January 29, 1977— I must end it. There's no hope left. I'll be at peace. No one had anything to do with this. My decision totally.
- C. What about the people of suicide? Suicide affects the rich and poor. Notice: *Adolf Hitler* [poisoned himself and then shot himself in the mouth], *Marilyn Monroe* [barbiturate overdose], the professional wrestlers “*The Von Erich Family*” [four brothers-overdose and guns], *Brad Delp* of rock band Boston [died from the smoke of two charcoal grills he lit inside his sealed bathroom—His suicide note said, “I am a lonely soul.”]

III. The Allurements to Suicide Acts 16:27, Matthew 4:1-6

- A. If Satan tempted Jesus with suicide, what makes us think that he will not tempt us with suicide.
- B. Why do people try to kill themselves? (Certainly all instances are of devilish influences.)
 - 1. Depression—Look at the Life of Samson Judges 16:20-21, 27-30
 - a. This is without question the most common reason people commit suicide.
 - b. Over 60 percent of all people who die by suicide suffer from major depression. If one includes alcoholics who are depressed, this figure rises to over 75 percent.
 - c. Signs of depressions are changes in sleeping patterns, appetite, or weight. Intense anxiety, agitation, restlessness or being slowed down. Fatigue or loss of energy. Decreased concentration, indecisiveness, or poorer memory. Feelings of hopelessness, worthlessness, self-reproach or excessive or inappropriate guilt.
 - d. The state of depression warps their thinking, allowing ideas like “Everyone would all be better off without me” to make rational sense.
 - 2. Mistakes in Life—Look at the Lives of Ahithophel (II Samuel 17:23), Zimri (I Kings 16:8-10, 15-20), and Judas (Matthew 27:3-5)
 - 3. Health Problems
 - a. The decision to commit suicide for some is based on a reasoned decision often motivated by the presence of a painful terminal illness from which little to no

- hope of reprieve exists. (The idea that there will never be a day that you will not live without the pain.)
- b. These people aren't depressed, psychotic, maudlin, or crying out for help. They're trying to take control of their destiny and alleviate their own suffering, which usually can only be done in death. They often look at their choice to commit suicide as a way to shorten a dying that will happen regardless.
 - c. The suicide rates for men rise with age, most significantly after age 65. The rate of suicide in men 65+ is seven times that of females who are 65+.
4. A Desperate Cry for Help, Without A Knowledge of How to Get It
- a. These people don't usually want to die but do want to alert those around them that something is seriously wrong.
 - b. They often don't believe they will die, frequently choosing methods they don't think can kill them in order to strike out at someone who's hurt them—but are sometimes tragically misinformed.
 - c. The typical example of this is a young teenage girl suffering genuine anxiety because of a relationship, either with a friend, boyfriend, or parent who swallows a bottle of Tylenol—not realizing that in high enough doses Tylenol causes irreversible liver damage. When remorse has cured the cry for help, the irreversible damage has been done.

IV. The Answers to Suicide

- A. Stop Being Selfish Philippians 2:4 (Visit a nursing home or a hospital)
 1. The wounds suicide leaves in the lives of those left behind by it are often deep and long lasting.
 2. The apparent senselessness of suicide often fuels the most significant pain survivors feel.
- B. Wait on the Lord Isaiah 40:29-31, 41:10
- C. Put Your Mind On Jesus Isaiah 26:3, I Peter 1:13, Colossians 3:2, Philippians 4:8
- D. Encourage Yourself I Samuel 30:6

Conclusion: It is amazing that a secular world offers help for people contemplating suicide. They will even spend months counseling suicidal people. However, Independent Fundamental Baptists only offer one verse and tells them to trust the Lord. Where is the help? Some Christians will not say anything because they are embarrassed. Why is the world more willing to help people live a more productive life and Bible believers sweep it under the rug?