

WHAT IS SUICIDE?

Suicide is the premeditated taking of one's own life. The word "suicide" comes from two Latin words: *sui* which means "self" and *caedere* which means "to kill."

WHY DO PEOPLE COMMIT SUICIDE?

1. Feelings of hopelessness, helplessness and worthlessness.
2. Desire to put an end to what seems to be endless emotional pain.
3. The inability to handle a sense of loss (death, financial public disgrace, illness, abuse, etc.).
4. Pride

ARE THERE INCIDENTS OF SUICIDE IN THE BIBLE?

1. Abimelech committed suicide to escape the shame of being killed by a woman (Jud. 9:54).
2. Saul committed suicide because he feared being killed by his enemies (1 Sam. 31:4).
3. Saul's armor-bearer committed suicide for the same reason as Saul (1 Sam. 31:4-6).
4. Ahithophel committed suicide because the king rejected his advice (2 Sam. 17:23).
5. Zimri committed suicide because he was rejected as king by the people (1 Kings 16:18).
6. Judas committed suicide because he felt guilty about betraying Christ (Matt. 27:5).

WHAT ABOUT SAMSON'S SUICIDE?

In the book of Judges we read about a Jewish judge by the name of Samson who was able to do great feats of strength. He was captured by the enemy, blinded and relegated to demeaning servitude. In a final act of strength, he pulled down the walls of a coliseum, killing his enemies and himself. Even though he killed himself, this was not an act of suicide. First the Philistines were an idolatrous people and God was using Samson to judge them. Second he was acting in the same manner a soldier would in going to battle for his country. The Philistines were bitter enemies of the Israelites and this was a heroic act to eliminate some of his people's enemies (Jud. 16:23-31).

IS SUICIDE A SIN?

Suicide is self-murder and murder is a sin (Ex. 20:13). It is also sinful because it is the ultimate act of selfishness

WHY SHOULD A PERSON NOT COMMIT SUICIDE?

1. Because God values a person's life so much that He sent His Son to die for them (Jn. 3:16).
2. Christ should be glorified in life and death, suicide does not glorify Him in death (Phil. 1:20).
3. No matter how bleak the situation, the believer always has reason for hope (2 Cor. 4:8-18).
4. Christ came not only to bring eternal life but an abundant earthly life (Jn. 10:10).

5. Suicide is wrong because human beings are created in the "Image of God" (Gen. 9:6).
6. Suicide is wrong because the body of a believer belongs to God and he does not have the right to do what he wants to do with his body (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
7. Life is a gift from God and only He should decide when it is over (Ps. 127:3).
8. Suicide is not the end to trouble. The person who commits suicide will have to carry that thought with him the rest of eternity.
9. God has a purpose for every life (Ps. 139:16) and it is not suicide.
10. The child of God has all the resources to cope with the troubles of this world (the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit and other believers).

IS SUICIDE THE UNPARDONABLE SIN?

There is only one unpardonable sin and that is attributing the miracles of Jesus to the work of Satan. In Matthew 12:31-32, Jesus speaks of the unpardonable sin. There the Pharisees said that the miracles that Jesus performed were done by the power of Satan to which Jesus responded, "All manner of sin shall be forgiven men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven men...whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age, neither in the age to come. Today the unpardonable sin is failure to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUICIDE AND BEING A MARTYR?

Suicide is pursuing death whereas martyrdom is a willingness to die. Judas went out and committed suicide to escape the shame and guilt of betraying Jesus (Matt. 27:3-5). The Apostle Paul was willing to die (be a martyr) for the cause of Jesus Christ (Acts 25:10-12).

WHAT ABOUT PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE?

Sometimes there are individuals who have come to the point of suffering and they no longer desire to live. They actually get to the point of seeking a physician to help them die in a convenient and dignified manner. As much as this seems to be a better alternative to suffering, it is still wrong. Only God has the power to take a person's life, and when anyone else takes the life of another person, it is murder (Ex. 20:13).

WHERE DO PEOPLE WHO COMMIT SUICIDE GO: HEAVEN OR HELL?

Instead of asking the question, "Do people who commit suicide go to heaven or hell?" The better question to ask is "Where do people go based on their relationship with Jesus Christ. If a person has not received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, whether he commits suicide or not, that individual is going to a place of eternal condemnation (Jn. 3:16-18). If a person has accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, their

salvation is secure, however, two Biblical observations should be given here:

1. Suicide should not be a consideration because the child of God has all of the resources (The Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit and other believers) to deal with any problems that arise in life.
2. Suicide should not be a consideration because, even though the blood of Jesus Christ washes away all sins, it is not God's will for a person to take their life and God would not be pleased with the believer who left this earth by suicide.

THE BIBLE AND SUICIDE



*Biblical answers to
questions about suicide*

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