

What the Bible Says about Suicide

Psalm 13:1-6

Introduction: Suicide is a problem in today's society as in bible days. 10th leading cause of death in America, increased by 33% in last twenty years.. One every 11 minutes. Second leading cause of death for people under 34, fourth eating cause for people over 35.

Typical white male, middle/upper (poor low rates) works construction.

Bible figures who committed suicide (felt hopeless & no purpose)

Abimelech, Judges 9:54

Saul and his assistant (1 Sam. 31:4-5),

Ahithophel (2 Sam. 23),

Zimri (1 Kngs 16:15-20), and

Judas (Mt. 27:3-5).

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.

What suicide is not:

1. Serving in the military and dying is not suicide
Samson (saint in Hebrews 11)
2. Removing life support from terminal patient isn't suicide
3. Refusing medical treatment isn't suicide

Hazards of Suicide

1. It doesn't fix anything: transfers and amplifies pain to loved ones
We see an escape, but it is eternal prison for our loved ones
Reasons why people do it
 1. A cry for help
 2. Attempt at revenge
 3. Mental Illness
 4. Loss of hope or purpose
 5. Punishment of self
 6. Following a loved one
2. It hurts yourself, your family and your friends
3. It is never the best solution

Bad signs: writing a letter or a will, getting things in order and giving things away, purchasing a gun, hose or rope.

If person has made a plan or a date, act immediately.

Hope for the Suicidal

1. Many people in Bible in deep despair
Solomon, Eccl. 2:17 grew to hate his life
Elijah was depressed and begged to die, 1 Kings 19:4
Jonah was angry at God, Jonah 4:8
Paul was under great pressure, despaired of his life, 2 Cor. 1:8
God saw each person through his pain.
2. God has a plan for your life
Eph. 2:10. We are his workmanship
1 Kings 19. Elijah had people to mentor and work to do
3. You belong to Christ,
2 Cor. 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation
1 Cor. 6:19-20 your body is a temple of the holy Spirit
4. Satan may be a thief, but Jesus gives life, John 10:10

Help For the Suicidal

1. Don't let your pride get in the way of getting help
2. Ask Jesus to give you hope and meaning
3. Get help: Tell someone, listen, find qualified people

Heaven or Hell?

1. God considers the taking of life very serious:
Augustine: saw it as the ultimate sin (Cities of God)
But in some cases (mental illness, honor) allowed
Aquinas (Summa Theologiae)
 1. Always mortal sin, goes against human nature
 2. Injures the common good: injures your family & community
 3. Sin against God: It is God who makes live & die,
Deut, 32:29
Life is a gift from God, Gen. 1:21
God is not pleased Job 1:21 He gives life and takes away
2. We don't judge, we just teach and influence
3. God is a God of grace and mercy as well as justice