

IS SUICIDE THE UNPARDONABLE SIN?

Suicide leaves you with lots of “whys.” Many of us have been affected directly or indirectly by suicide. Have you been personally affected by the suicide of a loved one?

Proverbs 13:12 tells us “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” Studies indicate that 90% of those who have attempted or committed suicide had a diagnosable psychiatric disorder at the time. Most of the time suicide has its roots in depression. People feel like they have no hope.

Psalms 46:1 That is where our hope lies. God is a refuge and strength not only in the past, and not only in the future, but right now, in the present, in the eye of the storm when things look their worst.

Jesus told us that in this life we will have trials and troubles, but we can live with joy and peace because of our hope in Him.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

Romans 5:3-5 (NLT)

But so often, a person who takes their life just can't see that. They are at a point where they can't believe that there is hope for them and that God is with them. Hope got deferred and their heart got sick. Depression interferes and makes it very hard for them to process the truth.

We ask today's question because at times people have claimed that suicide is the unpardonable sin. Mike explained why suicide is a sin and that it breaks God's heart because it hurts God's children when a believer who has received God's great grace gets confused, sick, depressed, or hopeless and takes their own life. But that doesn't make it the unpardonable or the unforgiveable sin. We're not saved by our goodness; we're not saved by our lack of sin. We're saved because of His mercy, because Jesus took every one of our sins, past, present, and future to a blood-stained cross.



If a suicide victim had sincerely made the decision in their lifetime to accept Christ as their forgiver and Lord before their death, they will find their way to the arms of God by the same amazing grace we all need to get there. Though they may have temporarily lost sight of it on this side of heaven, they will discover that hope will not disappoint.

Some of us are struggling now, fighting feelings of hopelessness, or perhaps someone we love has attempted or committed suicide. The Bible tells us that God wants us to share each other's burdens. We are to honor each other above ourselves, to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. We are committed to be a church that practices this kind of love for people.

What are some ways we can love those we know who are struggling with depression or hopelessness?

PRAYERS

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the LORD. **Psalms 40:1-3 (NLT)**



The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. **Psalms 34:18 (NIV)**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **Titus 3:4-5 (NIV)**

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. **Romans 3:22 (NLT)**

