

Some Concluding Thoughts on Suicide

(Final article in the series)

by Heath Rogers

We have spent the past few weeks looking at what the Bible has to say in response to some common reasons given for suicide. We will conclude this series by looking at some things that may contribute to one's choosing to end his life.

The Theory of Evolution. Human life is special and sacred. Mankind does not exist as the result of millions of years of naturalistic evolution. Man was made as the crowning piece of God's creative work. We are special and unique in that we alone have been made in our Creator's image.

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (Gen. 1:26-27).

Darwinian evolution may attempt to explain man's origins, but it gives absolutely no reason for man to live other than to pass on our DNA to another generation. Our young people need to know that they are not the result of some cosmic accident, but that they were fearfully and wonderfully made by a loving Creator.

Materialism. The fact that man has been made in God's image does not mean that God looks like a man, but that man has an eternal spirit like God. This spirit of man longs for fellowship with God. However, when men attempt to satisfy this spiritual longing with physical and material things (possessions, a career, entertainment, drugs, alcohol, etc.) they remain frustrated and incomplete. Young people today are growing up in a very materialistic world. I have heard a grieving father state that he gave his son everything that he could have wanted – yet this young man still chose to take his life. We can not take our young people away from God and fill that void in their souls with "things." There is a hole in our spirit that only God can fill.

Overemphasizing Human Relationships. God created man as a social being. It was not good for Adam to be alone, so a companion was created for him (Gen. 2:18). While human relationships are very important, they are not our only basis for living. One's worth is not determined by whether or not someone wants to go out with them. Ending a relationship with someone that we love is very painful. No one denies this reality. However, those of us who are older have learned by experience that there is much more to life than High School. Not everyone marries his High School sweat heart. Many of us did not even meet our spouses until after we graduated and moved away from home. Human relationships are important, but they do not take the place of having fellowship with our God. Before we try to bring joy to our lives through human relationships, let us first bring **stability** to our lives by developing a relationship with the One who will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

Misguided Comfort. I have attended some of the funerals of those who have ended their lives over this past year. Being called upon to speak at such an occasion is very difficult. However, I am disappointed with some of the messages that have been sent to our young people at such occasions. Every life deserves to be honored and respected, and every family deserves to be comforted. It is not always easy to find the words to convey a message of comfort in such circumstances. However, most of us know that funerals are occasions to speak to the living, not

the dead. When one says, “our departed loved one is not hurting any longer,” followed by, “we will be with them again one day,” he has done a very poor job in addressing the needs of the young people who are dealing with an immense amount of confusion, pain, and sorrow.

While a suicide is a terrible tragedy, our young people need to know that suicide is also a **terrible mistake**. The Bible teaches that Heaven is a place of comfort and rest to be enjoyed **after** we have lived a life of faithful service unto God (Rev. 2:10, 14:13). When those painful moments come, and for a brief moment the thought of suicide crosses their mind, our young people do not need to be reminded that they can escape to be with their friends in a place free from pain and sorrow; they need to be encouraged to always **choose life** (Deut. 30:19).