



Pastor Dale L. Crawley Sr.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

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The Ethnics on Suicide

Definition of Suicide:

Suicide is the intentional act of taking one's own life. It often stems from deep emotional pain, hopelessness, or mental health struggles. While the Bible does not explicitly define suicide, it provides guidance on the value of life, God's love, and the hope available through Christ.

Key Scriptures to Explore:

- 1. **Life is a Gift from God** *Genesis 1:27* (We are created in God's image) & *Psalm 139:13-16* (God formed us with purpose and love)
- 2. **God's Sovereignty Over Life and Death** *Job 1:21* (God gives and takes life) & *Deuteronomy 30:19-20* (Choose life)
- 3. Examples of Suicide in the Bible:
 - Judas Iscariot Matthew 27:3-5 (Guilt and despair without repentance)
 - King Saul 1 Samuel 31:4 (Fear and defeat)
- 4. **God's Care for the Suffering** *Psalm 34:18* (God is close to the brokenhearted) & *2 Corinthians 1:3-4* (God comforts us so we can comfort others)
- 5. **Hope in Christ** *Romans 8:38-39* (Nothing can separate us from God's love) & *Jeremiah 29:11* (God's plans for hope and a future)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What do the Scriptures teach about the sanctity of life?
- 2. How does knowing God's love and sovereignty change how we view suffering and despair?
- 3. What should a Christian response be to those struggling with suicidal thoughts?
- 4. How can the church provide hope and support to individuals in crisis?

Practical Application:

- Encourage Seeking Help The Bible encourages us to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2). Encourage those struggling to seek godly counsel and professional help.
- Prayer and Encouragement Lift up those who are hurting in prayer and offer words of hope.
- Build a Supportive Community Be available to listen and provide resources to those in crisis.
- **Point to Christ's Love** Remind others that God's love and grace are available to all, no matter their struggles.

Resources for Further Study & Support:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988 (USA)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741 (USA)
- · Christian Counseling Resources

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we lift up those struggling with thoughts of despair and hopelessness. May they find comfort in Your presence, strength in Your promises, and hope in Jesus Christ. Help us be a light to those in darkness and share Your love with those in need. Amen.

Excerpts from: Christian Ethics. An Introduction to Biblical Moral Reasoning by Wayne Grudem. 2018

Excerpts from: GotQuestions.org