

God. According to James 4:2 the wars and fightings among men can be traced to his own sinful lusts within him. The stresses, anxieties, fears, and depressions of life result when a man is not at peace with God through Christ and he is fulfilling his own sinful lusts. Receiving Jesus as Saviour and obeying Him as Lord of your life can set man free from the seeming overwhelming problems of life (Matt. 11:28-30 John 8:32) God's promise to every Christian in 1 Corinthians 10:13 is that He "...will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able, but will with the temptation make a way of escape, that we may be able to BEAR it." The better alternative to suicide is the joy of living through Christ.

God's way of Salvation

The question of being right with God is not "Am I living a good enough life?". Nor is it the statement "I'm doing the best I can". Salvation is not gained by what WE do for God, rather it is a free gift based on the FINISHED WORK of Jesus Christ! (Eph. 2:8,9) Religion is MAN'S effort to please God. Becoming a Christian, is believing that GOD has already done all that needs to be done for me to be saved. Many religious people on judgment day will discover to their utter despair that "religion" will not allow them into the presence of God in heaven. (Matt. 7:21-23)

The vital question is "Are your sins forgiven?" All men are sinners by NATURE and by action. (Rom. 3:23 5:12 Eph. 2:1-3) We don't become sinners when we sin; we sin because we ARE sinners. Our very NATURE towards God is corrupt. (Is. 53:6 Rom. 3:10-13) Because we are sinners we experience death. (Rom. 6:23) Death is not only physical (separation of the soul from the body); but also spiritual (separation of the soul eternally from God) (2 Cor. 5 Gen. 3). Man's only hope of being reconciled to God is through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17-19) Through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection He paid the penalty for man's sin and made it possible for believers to be freed from the bondage and condemnation of sin. (1 Cor. 15:1-7 1 Pet. 2:24) Forgiveness is possible through His shed blood. (1 Peter 1:18,19) By TOTALLY trusting Jesus as your Saviour as your ONLY hope of being made right with God; you can be saved from the condemnation you justly deserved. (Jn. 1:12 3:16 Acts 16:31 4:12)

SERVICES

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
 Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 P.M.

CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

TEENAGE SUICIDE



Greenwich Baptist Church

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Suicide has become the second major cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24 in the U.S. Every day 18 young people die from suicide. This is over 6000 needless wasted lives per year. This rate has tripled since the 1950's. All social and economic groups are affected alike. The tripling rate of suicide since the 50's is in direct relationship to the corresponding spiritual decline within our nation over the same period of time. The increased use of drugs, alcohol and sexual promiscuity have been a major cause of teenage suicide. IF PARENTS TAUGHT THEIR CHILDREN THE BIBLE AND THEY PRACTICED GODLY LIVING A NUMBER OF LIVES COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED. Below are listed some Biblical principles that explain some of the root causes of suicide.

Acceptance of Evolution

Life loses its meaning when it is explained by totally natural processes. If man is only a product of the evolution of matter and a victim of the "chance happenings of the world", then he is reduced to nothing more than an animal struggling to survive in a dog eat dog world. Man on the contrary is made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26) God's hand was upon each of us in the reproductive process. In Psalm 139 King David wrote, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb." God has created us as eternal beings with a body, soul, and spirit. DEATH DOES NOT END ALL, but is only a temporary separation of our soul and spirit from our body. At death our soul and spirit continue to live on in a conscious state until the resurrection of our earthly bodies. At this time we must all stand before the Lord in judgment to give account of our lives lived on earth. We will live forever in Heaven if we have trusted in Christ as our Saviour or we will live forever in the torments of Hell if "we neglect so great salvation" (Hebrews 2:3). God has given man dominion over all creation. Man's life has meaning and purpose based on the sovereign plan of God. History is not the purposeless chance happenings of events--history is "His Story." God's Divine control assures a person life is worth living.

Teenage Suicide

Deterioration of Values

Young people are being told today that there are no moral absolutes. Under the guise of "Value Clarification" they are instructed that they must determine for themselves what they think is right or wrong. This is described in the Bible as "...every man doing that which is right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25). When young people don't know where the boundaries are it results in anxiety, fear and despair. A parents failure to discipline his children communicates rejection to them (Prov. 13:24). Our society has communicated rejection to our young people by abandoning them to the lie of moral relativism. Security in life is a result of living within the God appointed boundaries that God has established (Example - Ten Commandments-Exodus 20).

WRONG RESPONSE TO GUILT

The Bible teaches that if a person "covers his sins he shall not prosper..." (Prov. 28:13). When we violate God's moral standards as given to us in the Bible we experience guilt. Guilt produces all kinds of depression and discouragement. Attempting to blame our environment or our society for our own failure will not remove the guilt. It is only when we acknowledge our failure to God and admit our own personal responsibility for our actions that produces a genuine removal of guilt from our conscience. This is the essence of what it means to become a Christian. We admit to God we have sinned and are guilty before Him - worthy of death. God forgives us on the basis that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ suffered the penalty of sin for us when he died on Calvary. It is through his blood that we can gain a clean conscience before the Lord (Heb. 9:22 10:19-22).

THERE ARE SOLUTIONS

When Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he disobeyed God and chose to follow Satan. The curse of sin fell upon all of creation (Rom. 8:18-25). All of man's problems grow out of this rebellion towards