



SUICIDE

When Dying Seems Better Than Living

Part 2

Acts 20:27

for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Church History and Suicide

- Growing in its sympathy on the subject
- Has rightfully called it self-murder

Seven Lies About Suicide

1. Suicide is only caused by depression.
2. People who talk or think about suicide will do it.
3. Christians don't commit suicide.
4. Once suicidal, always suicidal.
5. Suicide can be in your DNA.
6. Suicide is someone else's fault.
7. The Bible doesn't address suicide.

Seven Foundations for a Conversation

1. Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).
2. Our bodies are not our own (I Corinthians 6:19-20).
3. God's Word answers life's difficult questions (Psalm 119:105; 121:1-2; Hebrews 4:12).
4. A relationship with God generates hope (Psalm 42:11; 62:5-8; Romans 5:2-5).
5. Murder is sin (Exodus 20:13).
6. Jesus paid the penalty for sin and can forgive all sin (Isaiah 43:25; Micah 7:18-19; I John 1:9).
7. God gives strength and spiritual resources for every situation.

Examples of Suicide in the Bible

1. Judges 9 - Abimelech
2. I Samuel 31 - King Saul
3. I Samuel 31 - King Saul's armorbearer
4. II Samuel 17 - Ahithophel
5. I Kings 16 - King Zimri
6. Matthew 27 - Judas Iscariot

Three Lessons from the Suicides in the Bible

1. No redeemed person committed suicide in the Bible.

Can a Christian Commit Suicide?

"Yes, but..."

- A problem with suicide: death becomes the only solution to hopelessness. We do not grieve without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).
- Once a suicide happens, there is no chance for repentance.
- But we are only condemned for our rejection of Christ.

Can a Christian Commit Suicide?

"Yes, but..."

- Salvation is not dependent on confession of every sin.
- Not every suicide is about hopelessness.

Romans 8:38-39

*³⁸ For I am sure that neither death
[like the death of suicide] nor life,
nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to
come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to
separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus
our Lord.*

Three Lessons from the Suicides in the Bible

1. No redeemed person committed suicide in the Bible.
2. Each of these suicides includes shame and defeat.

Three Lessons from the Suicides in the Bible

1. No redeemed person committed suicide in the Bible.
2. Each of these suicides includes shame and defeat.
3. Each of these suicides involves the avoidance of inevitable sorrow.

So, What Can We Do?

1. Take it seriously.
2. Believe you are competent to help
(Romans 15:14).

Romans 15:14

*I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers,
that you yourselves are full of goodness,
filled with all knowledge and able to instruct
one another.*

A BIBLICAL COUNSELING COALITION BOOK

BIBLICAL COUNSELING AND THE CHURCH

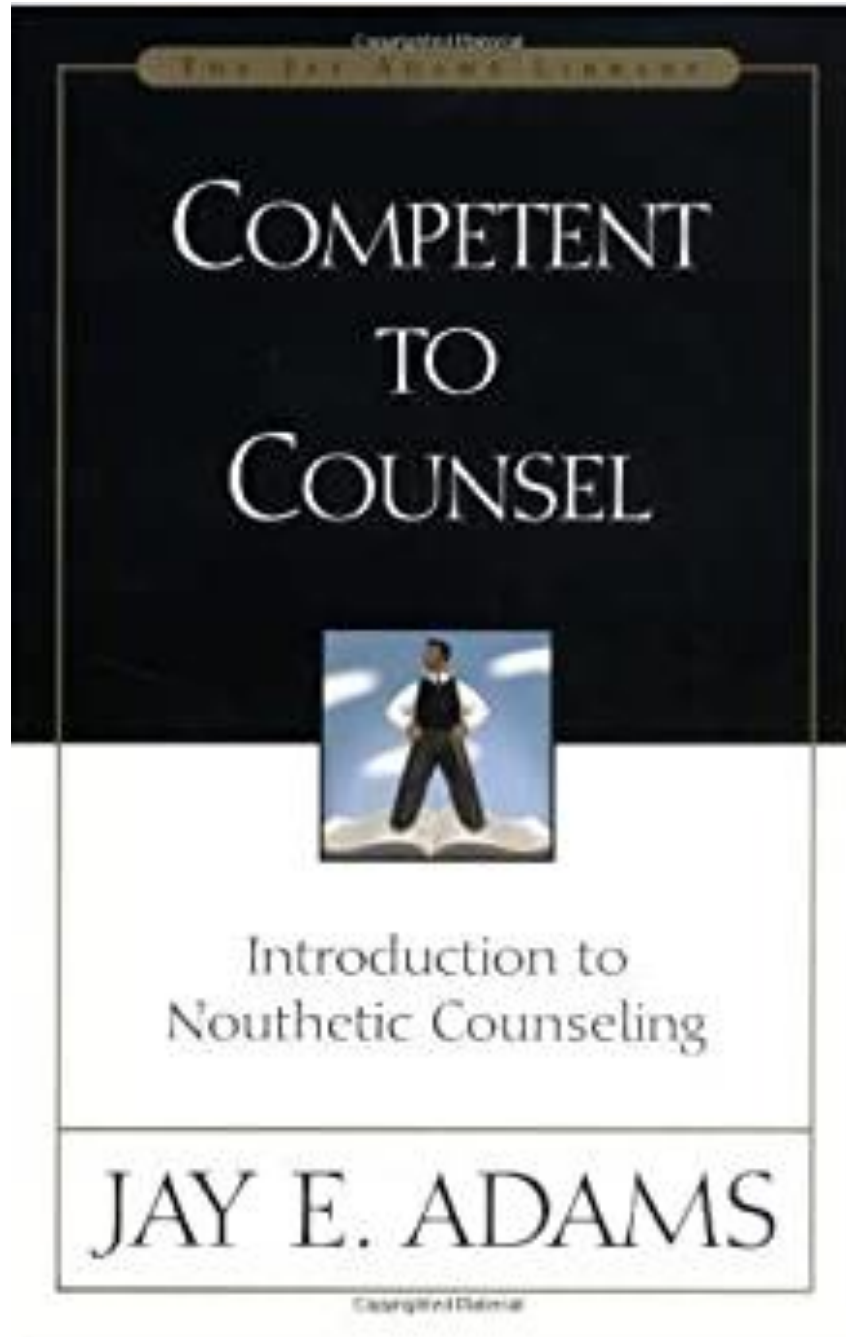
GOD'S CARE THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE



BOB KELLEMAN, GENERAL EDITOR
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FOREWORD BY PAUL TRIPP

“If you believe that God’s Word has never failed to give us profitable answers for all people and problems, we have confidence when we approach Scripture to find answers. Our main task is to creatively apply these answers in wisdom to hurting and struggling people.”



Book
Recommendation for
Understanding the
Relationship
Between Christians
and Counseling

So, What Can We Do?

1. Take it seriously.
2. Believe you are competent to help (Romans 15:14).
3. Be a good listener (Proverbs 18:13).

Proverbs 18:13

*If one gives an answer before he hears,
it is his folly and shame.*

So, What Can We Do?

1. Take it seriously.
2. Believe you are competent to help (Romans 15:14).
3. Be a good listener (Proverbs 18:13).
4. Empathize (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16; Romans 12:15).

Hebrews 2:17-18

¹⁷ Therefore he had to be **made like his brothers** in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest **who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,** but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

So, What Can We Do?

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3. Be a good listener (Proverbs 18:13).
4. Empathize (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16; Romans 12:15).
5. Give them options to suicide (Acts 16:27-28).

Acts 16:27-28

27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here."

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3. Be a good listener (Proverbs 18:13).
4. Empathize (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:15-16; Romans 12:15).
5. Give them options to suicide (Acts 16:27-28).
6. Help them realize what they can and cannot control.

So, What Can We Do?

7. Give them a big view of God (Psalm 139:16; Deuteronomy 32:39; Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 34:18).
8. Correct their distorted thinking (Romans 12:1-2).
9. Bring hope (Isaiah 43:7; II Corinthians 4:17; John 10:10; Matthew 11:28-29; II Corinthians 5:17).



James M. Boice

"Suicide is a man's attempt to give a final human meaning to a life which has become humanly meaningless."

- his book on ethics

HELP!

MY FRIEND IS SUICIDAL



LIFELINE
mini-books

bruce ray

“It is not your love that will sustain them; it is Christ’s. It is not your power that will save them; it is Christ’s. It is not your wisdom that will change their minds; it is Christ’s. It is not your spirit that will transform their lives; it is the Spirit of Christ.”

How to Build a Framework of Hope

- God has a purpose and plan for your life (Isaiah 43:7; II Corinthians 4:17).
- God's plan is for life. Death and destruction are Satan's desires (John 10:10).
- God promises our souls rest from our problems (Matthew 11:28-29).
- The Gospel saves us from being in bondage to sinful thinking (II Corinthians 5:17).

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10. Emphasize involvement with the church.

Others Exist to Comfort Us (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

*³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, **so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction**, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

Truth Grows Stronger When We Are Together (Hebrews 10:23-25).

²³ Let us hold fast **the confession of our hope** without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Every Christian Is Needed by Other Christians (1 Corinthians 12:20-21).

²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

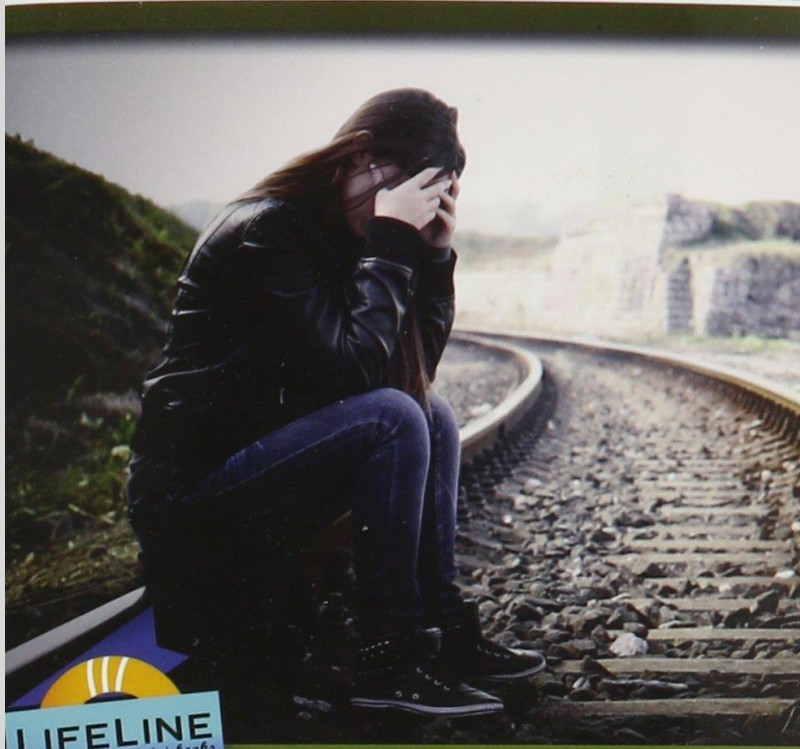
*²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand,
'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet,
'I have no need of you.'*

So, What Can We Do?

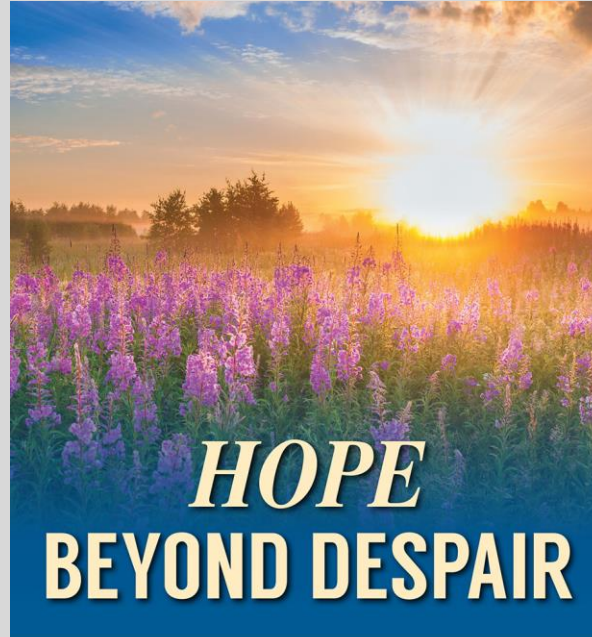
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9. Bring hope (Isaiah 43:7; II Corinthians 4:17; John 10:10; Matthew 11:28-29; II Corinthians 5:17).
10. Emphasize involvement with the church.
11. Talk often about I Corinthians 10:13.
12. Don't neglect the survivors.

HELP!

MY FRIEND IS SUICIDAL



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HOPE BEYOND DESPAIR

Finding TRUTH after a Loved One's Suicide

JULIE GOSSACK

HELP!
SOMEONE I LOVE
DIED BY SUICIDE



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