

What happens when a believer dies by suicide?

Questions and answers to ponder.

Questions asked about the person who died by his own hands.

First, our whole confidence rests not in the consistency of a man's last moments but in the consistency of Christ's finished work.

Q Where is our brother/sister now?

- If they were truly "in Christ" by faith they are sealed. **(Ephesians 1:13–14)**,

"In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

- They are "at home with the Lord" **(2 Corinthians 5:8)**

"We are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord."

- Eternal life rests on Christ's finished work, not on the manner of death **(John 10:27-30)**.

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish—ever; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

Q Does one act of suicide cancel a lifetime of faith?

No. *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"* **(Romans 8:1)**. Salvation is secured by God's grace alone **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**; a single, tragic sin cannot overturn the cross.

(Ephesians 2:8-9) *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not of works, so that no one may boast."*

Q Was this automatically a rejection of Christ?

- Suicide is self-murder—real sin that must never be excused (Exodus 20:13).
- But a believer may act in a desperate moment clouded by pain or mental illness rather than deliberate apostasy.
- Peter denied Jesus three times and was still restored (Luke 22:31-32; John 21:15-19).

Q What does the Bible actually say about suicide and salvation?

- Scripture records several suicides (Saul, 1 Samuel 31 after a battle with his own sword; Judas, Matthew 27:5 after betraying Jesus hung himself).
- The Bible nowhere teaches that the act is unforgivable.
- This is a wives tail from people who do not know their Bible.
- Or someone who believes you can lose your salvation.
- Only unbelief keeps a person from salvation (**John 3:18**) *“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

Q How do we reconcile the fact that they seem to love Jesus with this final act?

- Believers battle indwelling sin and weakness until glory.

(Romans 7:21-25) *“I find then the principle that in me evil is present—in me who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 23 but I see a different law in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a captive to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.”*

Depression can distort judgment much like a sudden heart attack overwhelms the body.

Questions the family and friends carry.

Q Could we have stopped this?

Maybe, maybe not.

- We are called to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).
- Yet every person will “bear his own load” before God (Galatians 6:5).

- Avoid false guilt; entrust the unknown to the Judge of all the earth who always does right (Genesis 18:25).

Q Why didn't they reach out to me?

- When a person is often in deep despair they often stay silent. (Psalm 88).
- Their withdrawal was a symptom, not a verdict on your love or their love for you.
- Embarrassment or not wanting to be a burden.
- WE live in a social media world where it appears as everyone is ok.

Q Is it sinful to feel angry with them?

- Anger is a normal part of grief.
- Pour it out honestly like the psalmists (Psalm 62:8; 13:1-2) and let the Spirit redirect it toward faith and compassion (Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32).

Q How do we talk to our children about what happened?

- Speak truthfully “Our friend died by taking his own life” yet gently, affirming both the tragedy of sin and the bigger hope of Christ (Deuteronomy 6:7; Colossians 4:6 “words seasoned with salt”).
- Emphasize the fact that troubles should always be shared, never hidden.

Q What practical help do survivors need?

- Acts 6:1-4 models care alongside prayer and the Word.
- Things like meals, calls, checking in, childcare, just being available.

Q How should we speak about the death publicly?

- Name the sin of self-harm honestly while pointing to the greater grace of God.
- Point to Jesus' victory over all death.

(1 Corinthians 15:54-57) *“But when this corruptible puts on the incorruptible, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the word that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56 Now the sting of*

death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

Final thoughts

Q Christ’s once-for-all atonement and “unconfessed” sins.

- Hebrews 10:14 declares every believer “perfected for all time” by Jesus’ single offering.
- While daily confession maintains fellowship (1 John 1:9), positional forgiveness was sealed at the cross (Colossians 2:13-14).

Q “Nothing...in death can separate us” (Romans 8:38-39)

Paul includes “death” itself to prove the point: no event, including a self-inflicted one, outruns God’s covenant love.

“The LORD is near to the broken-hearted and saves those crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). In the face of suicide we grieve, confront sin, comfort sufferers, and cling to Christ—our crucified, risen, and utterly sufficient Savior. He will “wipe away every tear” (Revelation 21:4) and make even this valley resound with His redeeming glory.

Our whole confidence rests not in the consistency of a man’s last moments but in the consistency of Christ’s finished work.

Our 1646 confession as Baptist’s reads this way in Article 23.

“All those that have this precious faith wrought in them by the Spirit can never finally nor totally fall away; seeing the gifts of God are without repentance; so that He still begets and nourishes in them faith, repentance, love, joy, hope, and all the graces of the Spirit unto immortality. And though many storms and floods arise and beat against them, yet they shall never be able to take them off that foundation and Rock on which by faith they are fastened; notwithstanding, through unbelief and the temptations of Satan, the sensible sight of this light and love be clouded and overwhelmed for a time, yet God is still the same, and they shall be sure to be kept by the power of God unto salvation, where they shall enjoy their purchased possession, they being engraven upon the palms of His hands, and their names having been written in the Book of Life from all eternity.”